Gilf leaders receive King's messages

KDWAIT (Agencies) — The leaders of three Arab Gulf states Sunday seceived messages from His Majesty King Hussein. The messages dealt with the current Arab situation, developments in the Gulf region and bilateral relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The messages were delivered by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, who visited Saudi Arabia Saturday and delivered a similar message to King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia. Qasem flew to Qatar early Sunday and delivered King Hussein's message to the emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani. The Royal Court chief arrived here later and delivered a similar message to the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Qasem left for Bahrain later in the day and handed over the King's message to the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa. Petra did not give further details of the King's messages to the Gulf leaders.

Volume 13 Number 3682

les' name

AMMAN MONDAY JANUARY 18, 1988, JAMADA AL AWWAL 28, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Fahd confers with senior Iraqi official

RIYADH (R) - Saudi Arabia's King Fahd held talks Sunday with a senior Iraqi official who delivered a message from President Saddam Hussein, officials said. They gave no further details. Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, flew to Riyadh from Kuwait where he delivered a message from President Hussein to Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah which dealt with the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq

Iraqis link Tigris and Euphrates

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has opened a 65-kilometre canal linking the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. The canal, built by Iraqi companies with Soviet advice, cost 104 million dinars (\$333 million) and will supply the Tigris with water from the artifi-cial Tharthar Lake in the dry season. The agency said more than 61 million cubic metres of earth were moved and 157,000 cubic metres of concrete were used to complete the project, 80 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Egypt to hold arms fairs in UAE, Iraq

CAIRO (R) - Egypt, striving to promote its military industry in the Arab World, will soon hold arms exhibits in the United Arab Emirates and Iraq, the national Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Sunday. Displays similar to one recently staged in Kuwait will be field in Abu Dhabi at the end of January and in Baghdad during early April, the agency said. MENA said a number of Arab delegations would be visiting Cairo military production projects.

British woman sentenced to 25 years in Egypt

CAIRO (R) - A 50-year-old British woman was jailed for 25 years at hard labour by an Egyptian court Sunday for smuggling heroin. Maureen Paleschi, from Cleveland, northeast England, was convicted of bringing about six kilogrammes of the drug, hidden in a wooden elephant, into Egypt last February. Defence lawyer Raouf Mahdi argued that one of the four Egyptians accused in the case, Mohammad Niazi, gave the elephant to Paleschi as a present in Karachi and she was unaware of its contents.

Iran hangs 4

NICOSIA (AP) - Four people were publicly hanged in Iran Sun-day for setting off car bombs in two Iranian cities, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. One man, Reza Nazari, was hanged in Imam Khomeini Square in central Tehran, the agency reported. It said he was an 'Iraqi spy" who had driven vehicles from Iraq and delivered them to his accomplices in Tehran, where they were rigged with explosives. The agency's brief dispatch gave no details of the three bombings except that they were "near the railway station and two other busy streets of the capital." It said "many" passersby were killed but gave no figure.

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- expulsion as an open challenge to the United Nations Security Council, which renewed its call talks with contras, page on Israel Thursday to repeal the expulsion orders.

Occupation army blocks food supplies to camps

Arab protesters clash with Israeli troops, set bus ablaze near Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) Palestinian demonstrators clashed with Israeli soldiers and an Israeli bus was set ablaze by a petrol bomb Sunday in the sixth week of anti-occupation protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

An Israeli army spokesman said the Jelazoun, Tulkarm and Farah refugee camps and the town of Salfit in the West Bank remained under curfews clamped last week.

In the Gaza Strip, seven of a total of eight refugee camps were under military curfew.

Workers for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) sent emergency food supplies into several of the Gaza camps, but the army said they could only be distributed once the curfews were lifted.

A senior U.N. official said there were severe food shortages in several camps, reducing the majority of families to one meal a day. Some 500 UNRWA employees staged a sit-in strike at

court stays

order to

4 Gazans

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's supreme court Sunday temporari-

ly blocked the expulsion of four Palestinians accused of leading

anti-occupation protests in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Judge Shlomo Levin ordered

the army to show cause why

The four are Mohammad Abu

Samra, 26, Freij Al Kheiri, 39,

Khalil Quqa, 39.
The Israeli military originally

served expulsion orders on nine

Palestinians, four from Gaza and

five from the West Bank. Four of

the West Bankers were expelled

to Lebanon last week after refus-

ing to take their cases to the

Israeli military appeals tribunal,

which they denounced as a

The fifth is awaiting a ruling by

The supreme court frequently

grants temporary stays of expul-

sion, but usually allows them to

go ahead once it has heard the

However, the four men's

Israeli attorney, Felicia Langer, told the AP that this time the

government might rescind the ex-

pulsion orders because of interna-tional pressure. The U.N Security

Council has denounced Israel for

The Israeli army maintains the

nine are prime "instigators" of the protests that have swept the

West Bank and Gaza Strip since

Dec. 8. The four whose cases

were heard Sunday deny the

Langer argued in court that the

She said the army delayed

handing vital evidence to the de-

fence and pressured the tribunal

into reaching "tendentious con-

clusions based on a one-sided

Israel has come under heavy

international denunciation for the

expulsion of Palestinians from the

The expulsion last week of four

West Bankers was carried out

when a special United Nations

envoy was visiting the occupied

territories in a mission to prepare

a report on protecting the Palesti-

nians living under Israel's occupa-

tion. Many diplomats saw the

occupied territories.

presentation of the evidence."

tribunal's handling of her clients' appeal was "defective and in-

ordering the expulsions.

charade.

the tribunal.

army's explanations.

Hassan Abu Shaqra, 37, and

the men should be expelled.

expel

Israeli

the U.N. beadquarters in protest. One West Bank Palestinian was injured when rubber bullets were fired by troops in the Balata refugee camp. Army helicopters dropped tear-gas grenades in Birzeit to disperse protests there,

In Beit Al Fouka, near Nablus, a petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli bus, setting it on fire but causing no injuries.

Leaders of two Gaza refugee camps under curfew appealed to the Israeli army to ease the restrictions and free detainees and were told that first "order" must be restored.

In the Israeli cabinet, criticism was levelled against authorities over the storming of the Haram Al Sharif Complex, Islam's third

However, the Israeli government voiced renewed support for the army's much-criticised hand-

ling of the Palestinian protests. The labour minister, Moshe Katsav, said workers from southern Lebanon and Europe, as well as Israeli high school pupils, would replace thousands of people from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who have been unable to work since protests began on

Palestinians who work inside Israel's pre-1967 borders have been prevented from travelling to their jobs by the military curfews as well as protesters who have set up road blockades and thrown stones at vehicles trying to leave the occupied areas.

The army last week adopted the new tactic of economic siege by putting all eight Gaza refugee camps and six of the 15 in the West Bank under at least partial curfew, preventing Arabs from going to work.
"People are starving. They

Red Cross renews call on Israel to revoke expulsions

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The head of the Red Cross delegation in Lebanon urged Israel Sunday to reverse its expulsion of four Palestinians from the occupied

West Bank. The deportees continued their open-ended sit-in-at the Red Cross centre in southeast Lebanon through a third straight day, demanding they be allowed to return home. They have been receiving an average of 1,000

well-wishers a day, police said. "The Red Cross through its own channels is asking that this illegal (deportation) measure be cancelled in compliance with the Geneva convention," said Domi-nique Gross, head of the International Committee of the Red

Cross (ICRC). The four deportees were expelled to South Lebanon Wednesday, accused of being leading anti-occupation protests that have raged in the West Bank and

Gaza Strip since Dec. 8. Gross told the AP in an interview at his office in west Beirut that the ICRC headquarters in Geneva was dealing directly with the Israeli government on the

"So, far, I haven't been in-

formed by my Geneva headquarters of any agreement reached with Israel to allow the deportees to return home," Gross added. Gross said the ICRC's means of pressure on Israel were limited, "but the 165 nations that allow the return of the four designed the Fourth Geneva con- portees to their homes.

cases of the four deportees.

vention in 1948 are responsible (for seeing) that its rules are

A separate ICRC statement in Beirut said the Red Cross would provide facilities to enable the with their families in the West Bank.

The statement said the four deportees told the ICRC they were determined to carry on their sit-in at the Red Cross centre in the southeast Lebanese town of Ksara "until they are allowed to return to the occupied territories."

Immediately after last week's expulsions, the ICRC said that the action marked a grave violation of international law,

Ksara is 38 kilometres southeast of Beirut in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. The town is 90 kilometres north of the Israeli

The four deportees are Jibril Mahmoud Rajub, 34, Bashir Khayri, 45, Hussam Hadar, 26, and Jamal Jabara, 28. "The ICRC will extend purely

humanitarian assistance to the four deportees, allowing them the possibility of exchanging news with their families," the ICRC statement issued Sunday said.
"The ICRC condemns the Israeli expulsion measures and only hope that this illegal measure can be annulled and an agreement found that would

Iran's raids on Gulf ships cast doubts on GCC dialogue DUBAI(R)-Iranian attacks on that in its recent attacks, Iran

ships serving the Arab Gulf states could icopardise the dialogue it has agreed to hold with them. according to Western diplomats in the region.

"The talks are meant to be about reducing tension, so any action that increases tension will wreck the prospects for a successful dialogue," one diplomat said Iran said Saturday it bad

agreed to talks with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). But in the past three days, Iran has responded to three confirmed Iraqi air strikes against its oil tankers with gunboat attacks on four Saudi-linked vessels.

These attacks on the interests of the most powerful GCC state could endanger efforts by Syria to bring Tehran and the GCC

together, the diplomat said.
"I can't see that the attacks could in any way put Tehran in a stronger bargaining position." the diplomat said.

Regional shipping sources said

appeared to be targetting small and vulnerable refined products

Two, the 13,524-tonne Norwegian liquid petroleum and gas carrier Igloo Espoo and the 12,467-tonne Liberian chemical tanker Rainbow, were carrying highly volatile cargoes when hit.
"I doubt whether this is coinci-

dence," one source said, "With four of these ships hit on the trot, it looks like a deliberate change of strategy."

The sources said Iran, whose warships and Revolutionary Guard gunboats prowl the southern Gulf, was probably trying to make its attacks more effective. "In terms of more bang for the buck, products carriers are much better targets." one diplomat

All four vessels hit by Iran were small tankers heading to or from the Saudi port of Jubail Suspicion of Iran runs deep in

many of the GCC states and a Knwaiti newspaper Sunday scorned the idea of a dialogue, describing Tehran's consent to it as "clear and sinister."



violence at Haram Al Sharif

By Jamal Halaby The Associated Press

AMMAN - Minister for the Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin Sunday condemned the Israeli police's actions at Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock mosques in Jerusalem last

Dudin also condemned Israel's measures against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an interview with the AP, Dudin accused the Israelis of trying to prevent the Palestinian people practising Friday prayers in the holy shrines in Jerusalem. He said: "We condemn the harsh Israeli measures against innocent Palestinians there."

using techniques that the interna- Mosque on Friday....

tional community is looking down upon and condemning... the shrine is sacred not only for Muslims in Jerusalem, but also Muslims all over the world." On Friday, hundreds of Israeli

soldiers and policemen charged into Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock mosques. (Reports from Jerusalem said that at least 70 Palestinians were either wounded or suffered from effects of tear-gas).

"Palestinians will never stop fighting for their freedom or expressing themselves... unless they feel Israel's desire to go to the negotiating table," Dudin told

Sheikh Mohammad Shakra, head of the Al Aqsa Mosque affairs, said that Israel "planned Dudin added that "Israel is to violate the holiness of Al Aqsa



violated earthly and heavenly rights, ignoring international

Sheikh Shakra told the AP that the Israelis were "aiming at suppressing the Palestinian will and creating despair in the hearts of Arabs who live on their own soil, especially after they failed to put an end to the uprising.

long meeting, left Amman for Tunis Sunday at the head of a delegation comprising two mem-According to an official state-ment here, the meeting, to be held at the Arab League headquarters, will also discuss the demographic changes in the Jew-ish and Arab populations of Palestine, continued Jewish emigration to Palestine and counter-emigration, as well as ways to

Delegation

Tunis talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel's

attempts to seize Arab water re-

sources in the occupied territor-

ies, the situation in Palestinian

refugee camps and the future of

the university graduates in the West Bank and Gaza, are among

the main subjects to be discussed

by representatives of Arab coun-

tries supervising the affairs of

Palestinian refugees during a

meeting in Tunis on Tuesday.

Secretary-General of the Ministry

Affairs Ahmad Qatanani, who

will represent Jordan at the week-

the Occupied Territories

leaves to

attend

present the Palestine case at the United Nations organisation. According to the statement, the issue of Israel's attempted seizure of the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDEC) will be discussed by the meeting which groups representatives of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon the Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO) and the Arab League. Israel last week began supplying power to Jewish customers in Jerusalem's walled Old City, cutting off Jewish homes in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank from a grid operated by the JDEC, thus curtailing its opera-

The Jordanian government earlier decided to grant JDEC a new 60-year concession, beginning Jan. 1, 1988, to counter Israel's repeated attempts to reduce the concession area of the

Iraq reports repulsing Iranian offensive on Kurdistan The reported offensive in the many as 500,000 fighters near its

BAHRAIN (Agencies) - Iraq dismissed as "mere lies and exaggeration" an Iranian claim Sun-day that Iranian forces had seized strategic heights in the Kurdistan mountains killing or wounding 1.500 Iragis.

A statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the Iraqi armed forces had repulsed the Iranian attack, inflicting beavy losses on the Iranians.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) had quoted a military spokesman as saying Ira-nian forces captured a chain of heights and now controlled 110 square kilometres of Iraqi land.

The agency said the Iranian forces in the Mawat border region 270 kilometres north of Baghdad braved "mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire fences.

The attack was launched early Friday, both sides said. There was no explanation for the twoday delay in announcing the fighting, and the reports could not be independently checked.

craggy northern mountains came amid threats from Iran last week to escalate military operations against Iraq.

In a Sunday dispatch from the battlefield, IRNA said Iranian forces captured six villages and about a dozen strategic heights overlooking Mawat. INA quoted a military spokes-

man as saying Iraqi forces pound-ed the attackers with all available weapons, inflicting heavy losses. It said the spokesman dismis-sed the Iranian claims as lies and

exaggerations.
"All that has been mentioned in the Iranian reports of areas they reached or losses they inflicted on Iraqi forces are mere lies and exaggerations," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the Iranians had not been able to achieve their aims in three days of fighting, adding: "This battle, the same as other battles, will be settled in Iraq's favour." Iran reportedly has massed as southern borders for an anticipated major offensive on the Iraqi port city of Basra or the surrounding region.

Iraqi leader meets Rajavi

In Baghdad, President Saddam Hussein met with Masoud Raiavi, head of Iran's anti-government Muiahedeen-e-Khalq which is backed by Iraq, INA reported.
The agency said Rajavi and the
president discussed the "situation

in the area in view of the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war.' "Rajavi stressed the necessity of implementing United Nations

Security Council Resolution 598," the July 20 resolution that calls for a ceasefire in the war, the agency said. The Mujahedeen-e-Khalq is the largest of the exiled opposition groups battling the fun-

tions. damentalist government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It is backed by Baghdad and operates bases inside Iraq.

Arab owned company.

End in sight to Lebanon's bloody By Samia Nakhoul

BEIRUT — The Amal militia's decision to lift a siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon has a good chance of ending a conflict in which at least 2,500 people have died, analysts said Nabih Berri, leader of Amal,

Lebanon's largest Muslim militia, said Saturday his decision was a goodwill gesture in support of Palestinian protests in the Israelioccupied territories. Earlier truces have collapsed

without substantially easing the suffering of 30,000 residents of the three shabby shantytowns but Lebanese political source said Berri was now under strong pressure from Arab states. "The 'camps war' has created

enmity between Amal and some

Arab states which accused it of killing Palestinians. Berri is eager to regain Arab sympathy by his new gesture," the source said. Amal fighters are to withdraw from the fringes of Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila camps in west Beirut and Rashidiyeh in the southern port of Tyre, important

bases for Palestinian fighters.

Nine other camps in Lebanon.

militarily less controversial, are not besieged by Amal. The sources said the blockade was embarrassing for Berri at a

time when the attention of the world was focused on the plight of the Palestinians. "How can he justify the blockade imposed by his militia on our

people when Israel is killing, harassing and arresting Palesti-

NEWS ANALYSIS

nians in the occupied land?" a Palestinian source asked. The source said Berri's initiative followed secret exchanges

between Syrian officials and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which started late last

The contacts focused on ending the siege by Amal — Syria's main ally in Lebanon — and improving relations between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Syria has backed Amal's efforts since 1985 to block any resurgence of Palestinian military power in Lebanon which was virtually erased by the 1982 Israeli inva-

But Syrian troops moved in last April to end the bloody Amal-Palestinian conflict and a seventhmonth total blockade of the camps was partially lifted so women and children could fetch food and medical supplies.

Berri said Saturday freedom of movement at the camps would be guaranteed by observer groups comprising Palestinian, Amal, Lebanese and Syrian representa-

He did not say when the decision would be implemented.

The Amal and Palestinian sources said Berri's unilateral action had more chance of success than previous negotiated agreements because it was not linked to the withdrawal by Palestinian fighters from positions east of Sidon which they occupied in

October 1986. This condition was part of a Syrian-brokered deal last September but the PLO fighters have refused to pull out from the hard-won strategic positions overlooking the Palestinian camps of 'Ain Al Hilweh and

Mieh Mieh. "Berri is already convinced that a Palestinian withdrawal from east of Sidon could not take place for strategic reasons. So he

'camps war' sought another way to end the three years of war," a Palestinian source said.

Senior Tunisian official visits Cairo

CAIRO (AP) - A senior Tunisian Foreign Ministry official met Sunday with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, the first official meeting between the two countries since the change of government in Tunisia last November. Following the meeting, Al Tayeb Al Sahbany said he was here at the invitation of the Egyptian government and his talks had centred on the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. Tunisia is one of six Arab countries which have not joined other states in restoring relations with the Cairo government, severed more than eight years ago. The new government of President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali has said it would resume diplomatic ties "when the time is ripe."

Fadlallah denies talking to British paper

Waite could be last hostage to be freed

BEIRUT (R) — British church envoy Terry Waite, kidnapped a year ago this week, may well become the last of the hostages still held in Lebanon to be

freed. Western diplomats and a senior Muslim militia security source familiar with Waite's case said prospects for his early release were dim because of the British government's refusal to bargain and because of his value to his

"Every hostage has his government or party to negotiate his - Waite has no one but God," said the militia source.

He told Reuters that Waite, one of 24 foreigners still missing in Lebanon, would be the last to get out unless his freedom was bought with concessions. Londons says it will not bargain.

Waite disappeared on the night of Jan. 20 last year while on a mission to free American hos-

tages. He left his seafront hotel in mainly Muslim west Beirut to meet the shadowy, Iranian-back-ed Islamic Jihad (holy war) group and was not seen again.

"He was negotiating for the release of American hostages but himself became the biggest fish in the hands of the kidnappers to use as a bait to force Western states to meet their demands,"

the militia source said He and nine American hostages could wait for their freedom until after November's U.S. presidential elections, when an administration more able to negotiate

might be in office. The tall, bearded lay aide to the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie was a major public figure, having aiready helped to free Westerners

beld in Iran, Libya and Lebanon. He returned to Beirut at the summons of Islamic Jihad, which still holds Americans Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, defying warnings from friends and experts not to go.

The sources said Islamic Jihad

offered him the one thing Waite would never refuse - a face-toface meeting with the hostages. "He fell into the trap," said one

Those who knew Waite in Beirut say he naively fell prey to his own taste for drama and risk. Security sources said Waite was being held in the poor, semiautonomous Shi'ite southern sub-

urbs of Beirut - a hotbed of His kidnappers have lodged no demands but the militia source said they want weapons for Iran, the withdrawal of British and U.S. warships from the Gulf and

freedom for some of the 17 Arabs held for bombings in Kuwait. The militia source and a Western diplomatic source said the 47-year-old troubleshooter was at

At the same time, they said, any negotiations by American officials would further endanger his life since it would confirm to his kidnappers their allegation

that he was an American spy. "He is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea," said

The militia source said that after Washington's arms-for-hostages deal with Iran emerged "the chances of any U.S. negotiations for Waite's release are zero since the U.S. government is in no position to make any further

He added: "He was in Beirut negotiating with the kiduappers at the same time that details of the Irangate scandal were unfolding... Waite was the victim of negative circumstances which still

Although there has been no statement, photograph, videotape or claim for his abduction, the militia source told Reu-

ters Waite was still alive. Freed hostages saw Waite

Former hostages Do Chae-Sung, a South Korean diplomat, and French photographer Roger Auque, who were beld by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, both said they saw Waite

during their captivity. Do and Auque were freed in

The diplomatic and militia sources said no contacts had been made to seek Waite's release since an exchange of letters last year between Runcie and Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Runcie urged Iran — the main power broker in the hostage issue to secure Waite's release and pledged in return to help-mediate with Falangist hardliners said to have been responsible for the disappearance of four Iranian di-

The militia source said an imminent breakthrough in the Waite affair was unlikely, especially since any negotiations have to be conducted through official

Iranian channels. "The Iranians have recently banned middlemen and local parties from meddl issue. They would not allow any group to interfere in the matter," the militia source said.

He said Iranian officials arrived in Beirut recently to stop any ransom deals from being struck between middlemen and Lebanese factions holding hos-

"In view of the U.S. and British intervention in the Gulf, there an overriding disadvantage beis absolutely no reason why Iran
cause the British government should do them a favour and help
would not deal for his freedom. win Waite's freedom," a di-

U.S. drops warrant for Abu Abbas

ROME (R) - The United States has dropped an arrest warrant for Palestinian leader Mohammad (Abu) Abbas over the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro, U.S. and Italian Meanwhile a pro-Iranian
Shi'ite Muslim cleric denied on officials said on Sunday. Sunday a British newspaper re-port quoting him as saying Waite

"We decided we did not have enough (evidence) at the moment to take him to trial," U.S. Justice Department spokesman Patrick Korten told Reuters in

would not go free as long as

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein

Fadlallah, the spiritual mentor of

Hizboliah, (Party of God) said

the alleged interview with him,

published in the Sunday Express,

The newspaper cited Sheikh

Fadialiah in a front-page story as

saying radical groups hoped to

humiliate Reagan by holding Waite, who disappeared last

January while on a mission to

negotiate the freedom of other

"The Sunday Express report was fabricated, false and un-founded. Sheikh Fadlallah did

not give any interview to the

Sunday Express on Waite or

other hostages," said a statement issued by Fadlallah's office.

The newspaper had quoted him

as saying that "only when Reagan

has left the White House will

people even begin to consider

discussing terms for freeing Waite

Fadlaliah has repeatedly con-

The Sunday Express said the

interview, to mark the first

anniversary of Waite's kidnap-

ping on Jan. 20, was conducted

It said Fadiallah acknowledged

he had close contacts to Waite's

kidnappers but would not say

The newspaper said Fadlallah

told it that Waite was lured to a

private clinic in west Beirut ex-

pecting to negotiate the release of U.S. journalist Terry Anderson

and academic Thomas Suther-

land. Once there, he was seized

on suspicion of working for U.S.

Deal for Cordes foiled

In a separate development.

West German hostage Rudolf

Cordes began his second year of

captivity in Lebanon on Sunday

as a senior Lebanese security

source said a recent deal for his

release collapsed when Iran de-

Three months of negotiations

which would have brought free-

dom for Cordes and American

journalist Terry Anderson ended

"Iran stepped in at the last

minute when it found out about

the deal and agreed to it only if

West Germany supplied it with arms, chemical substances for

weapons, and spare parts," he

There was no way of verifying

the comments of the source but

he has proved reliable in the past.

The West German embassy in

Beirut was not available im-

mediately for comment.

manded weapons.

he said.

by telephone on Thursday.

who his contacts were.

demned the hostage-taking in

was fabricated.

Western captives.

and the others."

Lebanon.

intelligence.

President Reagan held office.

Korten said the decision to withdraw the warrant, on charges of hostage-taking and piracy, was made during a periodic review of

outstanding terrorist cases. He said the decision had also been influenced by Abu Abbas's conviction in absentia by an Italian court to life imprisonment for masterminding the hijacking.

Korten was responding to questions about remarks by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti in an interview in the newspaper La Republica on Sunday, in which he hinted the decision was some weeks old but had

not been publicised. "I had great satisfaction when, some weeks ago, American jus-tice authorities revoked the arrest warrant for Abu Abbas. I didn't read it in the newspapers but it is

a fact," he said. The Achille Lauro was hijacked in the Mediterranean in October 1985 and held for three days before the four Palestinian hi-

iackers surrendered. Washington said at the time it had substantial evidence that Abu Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), was directly involved in the hijacking. It also offered a reward of up to \$250,000 for information leading to his capture.

Abu Abbas was with the hiackers when an Egyptian airliner taking them from Cairo to Tunisia after their surrender was forced by U.S. fighter planes to land in Sicily.

Italy, citing lack of evidence, refused to hold him and turned down a U.S. extradition request, causing a crisis in relations with Washington. He was put on a flight to Yugoslavia, which also refused to extradite him. Italian authorities later gathered what they said was suffi-

cient evidence to try Abu Abbas

in his absence.

minister at the time of the Achille Lauro hijacking, told La Republi ca that the affair constituted moment" in U.S.-Italian rela-

Sixteen defendants, including the four hijackers, were put on trial in Italy in 1986 on charges linked to the Achille Lauro seizure. Ten of them were tried in their absence. At an appeal hearing last May

sentences were upheld against 11 of the accused, including Abu Abbas. The remaining five had either been acquitted or already served their terms.

Palestinians debate forming government-in-exile

Arafat and his senior aides, sporred by violent protests in Israelioccupied territories, are pondering whether to form a govern-ment-in-exile to add weight to the PLO's claim to represent the

world's 5 million Palestinians. "If it will facilitate the realismtion of Palestinian aims, we can use it," Arafat said in an interview at his military headquarters

in Baghdad. He has sent envoys to discuss the idea and determine whether enough of the 137 countries that recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a liberation movement will upgrade their recognition to make the proposal

But there is opposition from some PLO factions and Palesti-

nian intellectnak They argue that forming a government-in-exile would impose restrictions on the PLO's war against Israel and that there is no guarantee that enough countries would recognise such a govern-

The idea of a government-inexile clearly appeals to Arafat. Over a lunch of soup, rice and Arabic meat dishes with his senior military commanders, he noted: "If the PLO will declare a government-in-exile, all those who support the PLO will sup-

port this in principle. "It would enable us to overcome some obstacles. The Americans look at the Palestinian cause from a very narrow angle. The West E refusal of the U.S. administration Heights.

BAGHDAD (AP) - Yasser to deal with the PLO... is one of our main obstacles," he said. "Those who are against it say this is not the right time and that we should wait a little longer. But in principle, no one is against it only the timing."

Arafat added: "Because of the uprising some of my colleagues say this is the right time. So, if a government in exile would help (sway the Americans), why not?

The idea of a government-in-exile has been kicking around since the 1950s. The late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat championed it a decade ago, but the concept never got off the

Some of Arafat's aides believe the time is ripe because the violence in the West Bank and Gaza has moved the Palestinian issue, the kernel of the Arab-israeli dispute, back to centre stage after it had been overshadowed for mouths by the Iran-Iraq war that threatens the Gulf Arabs.

'New political initiative' At the same time, Arafat has iaunched a "new political initiative" to neutralise American and Israeli opposition to openly

negotiate with the PLO. The basis of this initiative is recognising Israel within the borders that existed before the Middle East war in June 1967, in which Israel occupied the Sinai peninsula, including Gaza, the West Bank and the Golan

la reinea, Arafut would an hraeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza and Inraeli-U.S. recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, as endorsed in U.N. resolutions.

The political strategy, linked to the government in easile concept, "will pull the reg out from under the feet of the U.S. and Israeli governments," Arafat claimed.

Washington has long demanded that the PLO endorse U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. which recognises the state of Israel and refers to the Palestinims only as a refugee problem.

A government in exile would

excess not to talk to us."

mean that the Palestinians could go to an international conference free of the restraints imposed by the PLO's charter, which calls for a secular democratic state in Palestine instead of Israel, some supporters of the idea argue. Critics of the government in

exile concept say Arafat merely seeks to use it to neutralise one of Israel's strategies -- to deal with new Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories and encourage them to isolate the PLO.

Fatels may dominate

Critics also charge that any government-in-exile would be minated by Arafat's Fatch, the main PLO group, despite recent reconcilization with the two other influential factions, George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the

tion of Talestine of Nave."

A leading PLO figure racing noted the castest joke in Bagic duct. "The government is exist." would exclude Arabet as princ ster. Alte Annuer as force minister, the community of descript minister.... It would leave them with no

Aby Americ is Andre's non de guerre. He is also the PLO Sari Nasir, chairman of the

Sociology Department at Jorda: University, noted: "I don't lie lieve a government-in-exis will restrict the PLO and th

"A government would have t act like one within set rules. By organisations like the PLO CE operate more freely outside thus

The PLO's Central Counci has week deferred a decision o the government-in-excle, reflect ing disagreement. But it set up committee to study the issue an report to a plenary session b Feb. 15.

Close aides to Arafat said th: he is enthusiastic about the ide; but that maintaining the PLO new-found unity after years a disarray is perassount, and the

unity was jeopardised. Nonetheless, the proposal, de spite the political dangers, n flects the optimism that is runnic through the PLO after months (being put on the back-burner.

Poll: Most Israelis back harsh anti-Arab measures occupied territories. Arab birth

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A significant majority of Israeli Jews back their government's "iron fist" policy towards the Arab rebellion and 40 per cent believe the government is too lenient, according to a poll in Newsweek magazine.

of Israeli Jews surveyed approve of the deportation of Palestinians suspected of responsibility for leading anti-occupation protests in the occupied territories. About one-third — 32 per cent of 612 adult Israeli Jews sur-

The poll shows that 81 per cent

veyed by telephone said they 'don't know" if Israel should grant full citizenship rights to Palestimans, although 72 per cent agreed that if Israel keeps the

rates will ensure that a majority of Israelis eventually will be of Arab descent. Sixty-four per cent of respondents agreed that a settlement of

the Palestinian problem is "very mportant." Twenty-five per cent thought it "somewhat" important and five per cent thought it not important at all. Asked how the handling of the unrest had affected Israel's rela-

tions with the United States, 39 per cent of respondents saw minor damage, 27 per cent saw serious damage and 26 per cent saw no damage. Newsweek said the margin of error in the poll is plus or minus

four percentage points.

Qatar, Bahrain discuss Gulf territorial dispute

RIYADH (R) — The foreign binding. arrived in Saudi Arabia on Sunday to discuss a long-standing territorial dispute over a cluster of islands in the Gulf, diplomatic sources said.

The surprise talks in Riyadh followed a Saudi announcement last month that the two Guif Arab states had accepted its proposal to take the dispute to the International Court of Justice at The Hagne.

It said they had agreed that the court's decision would be to try to resolve the dispute.

line sources said nothing was known about the substance of the Riyadh talks. Bahraini and Qatari officials had no comment.

The row flared up in April 1986 when Qatari troops landed on the disputed Fasht Al Dibal reef and seized 29 foreign workers building a coastguard station.

The workers were freed 17 days later after Saudi Arabia's' King Fahd intervened. Saudi Arabia has since been mediating

U.S. lawmaker calls for sanctions against Israel RIYADH (R) - American Con-suppression of black rights and gressman Mervyn Dymally has Israel's reaction to five weeks (

called for sanctions against Israel Palestinian revolt in the Wes over its handling of Palestinian revolt, according to comments 39 people have died. published on Sunday. California Democrat Dymaily said in a Sandi Gazette interview

that the United States should consider sanctions against Israel similar to anti-apartheid measures against South Africa. But he conceded that such a step was highly unlikely. Tve never been to Soweto.

But if Soweto is anything like the West Bank and we have innoced sanctions against South Africa, then we should do the same," Dymally said. Dynally, head of the congressional black tances, drew com-

parisons between South Africa's

Bank and Gaza in which at lear Dynally, on a fact-finding m ssion, has visited Israel and th

occupied areas, Jordan and San "First, we need to be pragmit tic," he said. "Sanctions are not reality. We will have a maje

breakthrough if we can get Cor gress members to recognise the gravity of the situation." "What I saw (on the We Bank) was frightening, it's a terr tory under siege, he said "There is physical and psychol-

gical harasspeet, but the luras-ment goes beyond ther. There is systematic denial or rights."

Turkish-Greek row over Aegean surfaces again

ANKARA (R) — A dispute between Turkey and Greece over territorial waters in the Aegean has resurfaced less than two weeks before their prime ministers are due to meet in Switzerland.

In a move which could increase friction ahead of the talks be- ernment decision." tween Turgat Ozal and Greek leader Andreas Papandreou, Turkey said it would send a seismic survey ship, the Piri Reis, to international waters in the Aeeean Jan. 28.

Our scientific st connection with ... the Dave summit." the director of the Se Researches Institute of Turkey Aegean University, Erol Dizda told reporters Saturday.

activities carried out under a go Turkish Foreign Ministr Mesut Yihnaz was quoted t Sunday as saying he expected the Ozai-Papandreou talks in Daw to be a turning point in ti

GENERAL.

an and Middle East calls

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14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Special Feature
15-00	Concert Hou
16-00	News Summar
16:05	Instrumental
16-30	Old Favourite
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12-65	Sports Rounding
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BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1323 KHz

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Morning 67:90 News 67:10 Newsline 67:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 Music USA 17:00 Newstare 18-10 Focus 17:36 Special English News & Feature 18:30 Newstare 18:10 Newstare 18:30 Magazine Show 19:00 News 19:10 Focus 19:30 Special sh News & Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newstine America 20:30 Music USA 21:00 News & Editorial 21:15 Music USA Jazz 22-06 News 22-19

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* A painting exhibition by German artist Ingeborg Grosjean at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30). An exhibition about medical re-search in France at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 28).

★ L'outil et le geste (documentary) at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Cen-

VIDEO

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 661026 American Centre 6443; 6445; 6445; 6415; 6415; 6416;
British Council 636147 French Caltural Centre 63700 Goethe Institute 6419 Soviet Cultural Centre 54420
British Council 636147 French Caltural Centre 63700 Goethe Institute 6419 Soviet Cultural Centre 54420
Goethe Institute 64199 Soviet Cultural Centre 64420
Soviet Cultural Centre 64420
Tarkish Cultural Centre 6397
Haya Arts Centre 66519
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A 64179
Y.W M. A
Amman Municipal Library 6371
Univ. of Jordan Library 84353

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarism at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 A.m. - J:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Management Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jersin (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening bours: 9.00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Masenan: Has an excellent collection of the antian excellent collection of the anti-quities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Masian comtries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munta-zah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m.-6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lieus Clab. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the every asst and airth weemesoay at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7-30 p.m. Lious Philadelphia Clah. Meetings ev-ery second and fourth Wednesday at the Ammon Hotel, 7-30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. Rotary Clab. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m. Royal Antomobile Cists. Jabal Am-man, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534,

CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590. Church of the Ammerication (Roman

Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757. Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian lanp.m. Tel: 622366
Church of the Amuniciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdaii, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence tel. 601359. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafish, Tel. 771331. Armenius Orthodox Church Ashra-fich, Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Ortho-dox) Ashrafich, Tel. 771751.

Evangelical Latheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Antman, Arabic Service: Senday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295. Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) glish Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 82:2605. Rev. Veli. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterbay Saints (Marmon) Tel. 81:5817, 82:1264

Anuman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Barrier School in Shaniani Tel Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel

QUEEN ALIA

AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RI) information depart-ment at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it

INTERNATIONAL

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

9.	38	Cairo	RJ
9	38	Cairo	RJ
σ.	39	Muscat, Dubai (RJ
Э.	30	Kuwait	RJ)
9.	40	Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
Э:	59	Dhahran (RJ
9:	55	Abn Dhabi, Bahrain (RI
60	45	Catiro (RŊ
7	35	New York (RJ)
7:	55	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ
b	45	Bangkok (RJ)
3	55	Raehdad (RŃ

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

12:00 Muscat, Bahrain (13:40 Knwait (18:25 Beiteut 19:15 Vienna (08:30 Baghdad (
DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHT (Terminal 1)	rs

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

OTHER FLIGHTS (Tempinal 2) 08:30 10:10 Beinst (MEA) Frankfest (LH) Cairo (MS) Vicama (IA) Bahcain (GF) 10:28

MONEY EXCHANGE

Sunday rates

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Muscat, Dubai (RJ) Freach franc 59.21 60.2			Dutch guilder 177.5/	180.7
Sama'a, Jeddah (RJ) Japaness yen (for 100) 256.5/ 261.3				
Dhahram (RJ) Sweiish crown 57.9/ 59.9				
Abn Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) Swiss franc 244.8 248.9 ———————————————————————————————————				
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Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) W. German mark 199.3 202.9			U.K. sterling pound 596	607.2
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PRAYER TIMES

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John American Manager 1
Jabel Amman Maternity 642362
512H125, J. AJM1120
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
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University Hospital 845845
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The Line of the Li

Soviet official praises relations with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Director of Soviet Department of -Culture and Arts Constantine Morashov said Sunday that His Majesty King Hussein's recent w visit to the Soviet Union had -contributed to promoting bilateral cooperation and enhanced friendship ties between the two countries.

During a press conference held at the end of the Soviet art a exhibition marking the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union,

Morashov expressed appreciation to the Jordanian government for hosting the exhibition, which included 90 plates representing all kinds of plastic art in the Soviet

Soviet parliamentarians denounce Israeli measures

Soviet parliamentarians have condemned the Israeli authorities repressive measures against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and expressed solidarity with them.

Jaber urges preservation of Baqaa basin environment

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of said that the ministry has finalised Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber Sunday called on all local councils in the Baqaa basin to preserve the environment and to adhere to building construction

a comprehensive organisational plan for the Baqaa basin, taking into consideration preservation of arable land.

Jaber was speaking at Ain Al Pasha, where he inaugurated the new premises of Ain Al Pasha Municipality and reviewed with Addressing heads of local the municipal council its prob-councils in the Baqaa area, Jaber lems and future plans.

South Korean envoy condemns KAL bombing

By Nermeen Murad Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The South Korean ambassador to Jordan Sunday strongly condemned what he called "the barbarous mid-air bombing of a Korean Airlines (KAL) flight 858," and demanded that those responsible for the act be "sternly punished."

Speaking at a press conference held at the South Korean embassy here, Dongsoon Park told re------- porters that it has been established beyond doubt that the bombing was conducted by a pair of North Korean special agents who were trained for a consider-, able period of time on this special mission as part of their attempt to disrupt the Olympics and the standing political government in

> The two agents identified were 70-year-old Kim Sungji, who committed suicide at the Bahrain Airport by swallowing a cyanide capsule; and Kim Hyun-Hee, 26 years old, the daughter of a North

Korean diplomat currently serv-

ing in Angola. According to Park, Kim Hyun-Hee confessed to planting a bomb on Dec. 23, eight days after her arrival in Seoul. Until that time, she had made false statements about her origin in Chinese and Japanese, claiming that she was not Korean.

KAL flight 858 disappeared en route from Abu Dhabi to Scoul with 115 passengers and crew aboard over the Andaman Bay, close to the Thai-Burmese

According to Park, investiga-tions have shown that the two agents left Pyongyang on Nov. 12 posing as father and daughter and posing as rather and daughter and arrived in Baghdad, where they spent three hours at the airport transit lounge. They then boarded air flight 858 to Abu Dhabi. They took with them a radio time bomb and liquid explosives camouflaged as a piece of carry-on luggage and a liquor

During the flight, they planted the bomb inside the head rack

and more often than not, the

Tourist complaint offices to open

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Zuhair Al Ajlouni Sun-day announced his ministry's decision to open offices for receiving complaints from members of the public and tourists.

He said that the offices, which will be open 24 hour a day, would receive, process and address the

The Tourism Authority had been receiving complaints from the public about the misconduct of tourist offices and agencies throughout the country. The complaints dealt mainly with the failure of certain agencies to adhere to the programmes out-lined in their promotional and informational literature.

According to the minister's statement, members of the public can contact the offices through the following telephone numbers: 642311, Ministry of Tourism; 3633, Tourism Office - Aqaba; 451272, Jerash office; 83030, Pet ra office; and 08-51256 and 08-51146, Queen Alia International

and deplaned at the Abu Dhabi Airport, when the plane made a stopover there. The bomb exploded later, as preset, when the

plane was flying over the Anda-

According to Kim Hyun Hee, she was trained by a kidnapped Japanese woman in Pyongyang from April 1981 to March 1983 to polish her Japanese and become

toms so that she could go abroad disguised as a Japanese. An Associated Press report uoted a Japanese Foreign Ministry official Sunday as saying that Japan was considering sending police investigators to South Korea to question Kim Hyun-

familiarised with Japanese cus-

According to the report, the Japanese police investigators will visit Seoul to study the possibility that the Japanese woman instructor may have been one of three women who disappeared suddenly along with their boyfriends, while walking on or near beaches in 1978.

U.S. legislator leaves pledging to inform American public about Palestinian plight

AMMAN (Petra) - The current Bank and Gaza to the American able solution, De Wine said. Palestinian uprising in the occu-pied West Bank and the Gaza Strip is a natural outcome of continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, American congressman Michael De Wine said here Sunday.

The Congressman, who wound up a week-long visit to Jordan, said he would explain the situation in the occupied territories and the plight of the Palestinians in the refugee camps of the West

The Ohio representative, who visited the occupied territories before crossing into the East Bank, said that he will urge the U.S. administration to take steps to initiate the Middle East peace

The situation in the occupied territories will not improve with the passage of time, therefore, serious and intensive efforts must be made towards reaching a durDuring their visit to Jordan, De

Wine and fellow Congressman Bud Shuster met with His Majesty King Hussein and Jordanian officials, and visited Palestine refugee camps to observe their con-

De Wine said before his departure that during his stay in the East Bank, he and his colleague acquainted themselves with the major development projects currently being implemented in the

Interior Ministry transfers district governors

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani Sunday decided to effect the following transfers among various district governors as of Jan. 20.

Madaba District Governor Ratib Al Majali is transferred to Jerash, succeeding Hussein Al Habashneh, who will be transferred to Ramtha. North Shuneh District Governor Quftan Shlash is transferred to Aqaba, succeeding Khalil Khreisat, who is transferred to Madaba District.

ferred from the ministry to Amman Governorate, where he will serve as assistant governor; while Abdul Qader Al .Hababbeh is transferred from the ministry to Balqa Governorate, where he will serve as assistant governor.

Ramtha District Governor Khalaf Mahasneh is transferred to North Shuneh, and assistant Balga Governor Issa Mahmoud is transferred to the ministry to head the Licensing and Traffic

Assistant Governor of Maan Mohammad Mustafa Abu Shuweimeh is transferred to Zarga Governorate, to serve as assistant governor.

Dajani also decided to transfer District Governor Musleh Tarawneh to the ministry, where he will head the ministry's Financial and Administrative Affairs Depart-

Voluntary societies more than double, expand assistance during past decade

main projects are:

training centre in Amman.

Holder of ticket No.

By Samir Al Yafi

AMMAN — More than 70,000 Jordanians are working on a voluntary basis for 631 charitable societies throughout the Kingdom, after the number of these institutions more than doubled during the past decade. Chairman of the General Un-

ion of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib said the number of voluntary and charitable institutions rose to 621 in 1987 from 246 in 1973. They are mainly involved in four types of activity: institutionalised care, child care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and health and

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Khatib said that GUVS was supervising and, in some cases subsidising, the activities of these various institutions. GUVS financial allocations

to these societies increased from documents to build the centre's 30,000 in 1973 to JD 330,000 in first phase.

Over the past three years, According to Khatib, the general policy of GUVS is to GUVS gave greater attention to developing kindergartens throughout the Kingdom, in general, and in the governorates of Maan, Karak, Tafileh and adopt and execute schemes that benefit the country and the people. Therefore, the organisation's Mafraq, in particular, by provid-- To build a centre for the ing them with necessary equip-ment, furniture and computer rehabilitation of 150 to 200 people with multiple handicaps. At

present, GUVS is sponsoring 40 people at a multi-handicapped In addition, GUVS has established a number of public parks - To set up a national centre and libraries for children.

for the treatment of cancer pa-tients. So far, GUVS has col-Khatib noted that nearly 100,000 needy Jordanians be-nefitted from a GUVS programlected nearly JD 1 million through various fund-raising actime which depends on material vities, and a technical committee and in-kind donations from betis currently working on the tender ter-off Jordanian families.

Cabinet forms joint committee delegations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday formed Jordan's delegation to the Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Committee meeting due to convene in Sanaa on Feb. 21.

led by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, groups representatives of the ministries of interior, industry, trade and supply, planning, and energy and mineral resources, the Central Bank of Jordan and the Royal Scientific

The delegation to the three-day meeting will be assisted by a technical committee comprised of representatives from the ministries of education, labour, public works, finance and health, as well as the Civil Defence Commission. According to a Cabinet statement, the joint committee will discuss ways to promote cooperation between North Yemen and

The Cabinet also formed Jor-

The delegation, which will be dan's delegation to the Joint Jordanian-Saudi Arabian Committee meeting due to open in Riyadh on Feb. 9.

The week-long meeting will discuss means for bolstering economic and trade relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia. according to the Cabinet state-

The statement said that the delegation to Saudi Arabia will be headed by the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, and will group representatives from the ministries of industry, transport and telecommunications, interior, and finance and customs, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and the Amman Chamber of Industry.

University of Jordan to create new modern languages section

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan is creating a new section for modern languages at the Faculty of Arts, and plans to admit students to the section as of the second academic term beginning at the end of the month.

The decision was taken by the university's Council of Deans and announced by Director of the University's Languages Centre Louis Muqattash, who said that the new section would provide education and facilities for specialists in modern languages, such as French, German and English.

At present, the Faculty of Arts is studying ways to develop its translation programmes. The Council of Deans has already agreed on a plan enabling students to have a dual Arabic-English specialisation, Muqattash

He said that by offering students of English this choice, the university would be helping them to overcome their weakness in Arabic language; and students of Arabic to overcome their weakness in English.

According to Muqattash, the university's planning committee is studying the prospect of allowing students to have dual specialisations in English-French, Arabic-French, English-German, Arabic-German and French-

He said that only students from the Faculty of Arts would be admitted to the new section.

Drawing of: Jan. 17, 1988

Arab-American leader stresses need to counter pro-Israel lobby

By Najwa Najjar Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A political vacuum resulting from lack of information has developed in the U.S., allowing those who contribute most to campaign funds to dictate the government's decisions concerning the Middle East, said former Democratic senator from South Dakota and founder of the American-Arab Anti-discrimination Committee (ADC) James Abourezk.

During a private visit to Jordan Abourezk told the Jordan Times that the American public did not have too much interest in the Middle East region until recently because they were denied access to the "full story," making it easier for the pro-Israel lobby to manipulate presidential and congressional candidates. "The American people are fair people; but the problem is that they have had facts all from one side — the Israeli side," he said, stressing that it is important for the Arabs

to tell their side of the story. The heavy press coverage which the ongoing uprising in the occupied territories is receiving in the U.S. has broken some of the rules considered sacred in Israeli-American relations. Abourezk noted that the Israelis look at the uprising as a public relations and riot control problem, and not as an issue of morality which has resulted from occupation. "Israel was doing what it wanted to do before because no one knew what was happening." he said, pointing out that the Israelis had been killing children all along, and that 3,000 similar incidents had occurred annually for the past four or five years in the occupied territories, "but, it was just this time that the incidents got press coverage."

According to Abourezk, it is difficult to account for the sudden interest of the American media. however he noted that because of the coverage, "the Israelis are rapidly losing support in the U.S. With the uprising, some congressmen and American Jews are criticising Israeli policies."

"The uprising has had a dramatic impact on the American press, and this time they have not been intimidated by the Israeli lobby. Even as the Israelis try to suppress the news, they (the American press) are still reporting in a way that makes Israel look bad," Abourezk continued.

Economics was cited as the reason why most congressmen were not yet beyond the manipulation of the pro-Israeli lobby. Aboutezk explained that because congressmen and presidential candidates are hungry for campaign contributions from this lob-money is pumped into Israel, and by criticisms of Israel are rare; it is not in the American interest

candidates will vote against American interest to ensure the inflow funds. "The Israeli lobby in Washington has cleverly manipulated and convinced congress-men and presidential candidates that they can not be elected without them. The lobby gives sub-stantial amounts of money to targetted candidates. The money is given early to get the campaign off the ground, get the candidate better known and, thereby, make

money," he explained. The pro-Israel lobby has a "money list" and a "hit list," and, according to Abourezk, if a candidate is not on the "money list," he is on the "hit list."

Reverend Jesse Jackson, an outspoken Democrat who is running for the 1988 presidential elections, was the only candidate who denounced the brutal treatment of the Palestinians and voiced a solution to the conflict. Abourezk said, adding that the other presidential candidates had issued only mild criticism of Israeli measures against Palesti-

Abourezk said that he believes if candidates did not fear the pro-Israel lobby the U.S. would pressure Israel to sit down and negotiate with the Arabs, or Congress would pass a resolution that no financial support would be given to Israel unless they entered the peace process. However, he added that "the U.S. does not include the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as one of the players (in prospective peace negotiations) because they are afraid of the lobby."

Still, since three out of the four options available to the Israelis are considered unacceptable, Abourezk believes that the U.S. will have to force Israel to enter negotiations. An international conference, either under the auspices of the United Nations or a joint U.S.-Soviet Union chairmanship, seems to be the most acceptable option to the U.S., he said. Maintaining the status quo, wherein Palestinians continue to live in misery, annexation of the West Bank and Gaza, and the Kahane solution of expelling the Palestinians are totally unworkable, according to Abourezk.
The only workable solution is to give the Palestinians their state and end the political problem of

occupation," he said. Referring to the efforts the Arab-American community to present the Arab point of view, Abourezk said: "We have an interest in our community to end the conflict, not just as Arabs, but because \$6 billion of our

to give weapons to the Israelis to

For its part, ADC has been mobilising Arab-Americans and other, concerned Americans to hold protests and demonstrations in front of Isaeli embassy and sending action alerts, in an effort to persuade the American government to use its influence with Israel to stop the shooting of children. "The protests will have some effect. It won't be like that of the Israeli lobby, but we must it easier for the candidate to raise keep it up," he said.

ADC President Abdin Jabara, who was in the occupied territories when the uprising started, is holding briefings for Arab communities throughout the U.S.

The 20,000-member ADC is

the only organisation with gras-sroots power working for Arab-American interests and getting Arab-Americans to work together. "We are consolidating our power, but we need leverage to become a lobby," Abourezk noted. He pointed out that leverage comes from money - presently supplied through membership dues and contributions and votes for candidates, which

ADC is gradually accumulating. "We won't lobby for any Arab state, but we don't want Arab people to be discriminated against in the U.S. or elsewhere," he said. Abourezk said he believes that there has been an endemic level of discrimination against the Arabs since the Crusades. "With the oil embargo in 1973 and the fear of oil power for the Arabs, the American goverment and Israel made Arabs into scapegoats" he said, adding that the "well-orchestrated anti-Arab campaign reached its peak in 1980."

It was during that year, Abourezk decided he had had enough; as a result, he founded "Arabs were the last ethnic group to be defamed without anyone raising an outcry. The discrimination had a political basis, so I used political organisations, which now number 80 chapters throughout the U.S., along with media monitors. We work in the American system, go after congressmen, organise politically and work on projects. For example, we raised \$75,000 for Lebanon when we sponsored

He added that over the past eight years, dramatic improvements have taken place and although discrimination, defamation and stereotyping still occur it is no longer considered acceptable nor laughable: "It is like what happend to the blacks once they organised; there is still discrimination, but it is not accept-

As part of its anti-discrimination activities ADC contacts any information medium which prejudices Arabs. Abourezk said that 95 per cent of the time, those in charge of the medium apologise and say that the discrimination was unintentional: "Only five per cent of the time is the

Jewish Agenda.

Lebanese singer Marcel Khalifeh's tour of the U.S.," he said.

derogatory remark intended." In addition, ADC works with other minority organisations, in-cluding the Rainbow Coalition, headed by Rev. Jackson; Free South Africa; Hispanic, Japanese and Italian groups;and the new

Protesters clash with Israeli troops

(Continued from page 1)

have no food, no water, no milk," said a Palestinian teacher named Fatma.

"The way we perceive it, the people are not starving, but they are bungry," said UNRWA's acting director in Gaza, Angela

Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem urged the Israeli government to make an immediate peace offer to the Palestinians and said there could be no local leadership as a substitute to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Labour leader and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday that Israel should take an initiative even as the protests continued. But he ruled out any negotiations with the PLO. Freij told Israel Television

Saturday night that Israel would have to talk to the PLO.

"The PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and any local leaders will be rejected by the Arab governments, by the Arab people all over the world and they will be considered as collaborators, so the idea of having a local leadership is really not a possibility,"

In Abu Dhabi, Salim Zaanoun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), told Reuters that the protests in the occupied territories had two

"Either to force Israel to pull out from our lands or to convince states which are blocking an international peace conference on the Middle East, especially the United States, of the need of holding such a conference."

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Jordan Times

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Editor-in-Chief: RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 666265-2

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Wimps in action

WHAT is one to do with a superpower that insists on acting like - to borrow a term from the current American presidential campaign — a super wimp? In American parlance, wimp refers to a weak, spineless, cowardly and irresolute person, someone who would rather curl up in a corner than stand up for matters of principle, honour or justice. In the recent case of the U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's deportation of four Palestinians to Lebanon, the United States behaved like a super wimp when it abstained. We say this because of the vote itself, but also because of the audacious and absurd explanation which was offered in defence of the American abstention. The U.S. abstained because it did not think that "repeatedly raising the issue in the council assists in the process of restoring calm or in addressing the problems that have contributed to the recent disturbances.'

If repetition is so dubious a tactic, one asks the American government, why then does the United States so frequently repeat its demand for more emigration of Soviet Jews. to mention only one example of an official American inclination towards being repetitive that deserves a prize of some sort? Why does the United States keep repeating that the Arabs must recognise Israel's right to exist before peace talks can start? Why does repetition make the heart sing for Americans, but not for Palestinians and other Arabs?

The United States' Wimp Quotient has risen another notch, in our eyes, in a doubly sad incident which the United States should have seized as an opportunity to reaffirm those American qualities which have always been admired around the world — the same qualities, for example, that the United States celebrates this week on Martin Luther King Day. If, as American Ambassador to the U.N. Vernon Walters said after the vote, the United States "deeply regrets" the deportations of Palestinians that took place, then the United States should have voted for the resolution as a matter of principle — because it was the right, and honourable, and just and moral thing to do.

The United States should have voted for the resolution to show Israel and the rest of the world that a superpower can stand up for its moral code and its political ethic. Instead, all we heard was a sorry, childish tale about the inappropriateness of repetition as a diplomatic tactic. The wimps of the world must be celebrating. Those who honour the memory of Martin Luther King must be weeping. What the world needs is more people who live like Martin Luther King, and fewer people who think like Vernon Walters. More men and women of ethics; less

<u>ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS</u>

Al Ra'i: Arab consultations continue

THE situation in the Israeli-held Arab territories was discussed at length by King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during the latter's stopover in Aqaba on his way home from a Gulf tour. The King also sent a message on the situation in the occupied lands to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia with whom the King has been maintaining constant touch on the question. The King is thus intent on pursuing his consultations with other Arab leaders with a view to formulating a pan-Arab stand vis-a-vis the on going atrocities being practised by the Israeli authorities on the Arab population. The consultations indicate that there is a clear Arab policy towards re-assuming the initiative in this problem so as to confront and deal with the new Israeli challenge and the fast developing events in our region. The flurry of activity is an indication that the Arabs who achieved agreement and consensus at their summit in Amman last November, are determined to take further constructive steps that would serve the highest national interests. These actions and the consultations are being watched with hope by the Arab masses who support their leaders' contacts and steps for practical action. It should be emphasised that it is up to the Arab leaders now to take the initiative and assume the responsibility towards serious action with which they can deter the aggressors and fulfil the aspirations of their

Al Dustour: Coordinating peaceful steps

KING Hussein's talks with President Mubarak in Agaba Sunday came amid crucial circumstances confronting the Arab Nation as a result of the on going Gulf conflict and Israel's escalation of its repressive measures in the occupied Arab territory. The current events in our region call for intensified consultations among Arab leaders and coordination of steps that can lead to a halt of the conflict in the Gulf and an end of Israel's atrocities. Both Egypt and Jordan are deeply concerned over the developments in the two issues and both are keen on rallying Arab ranks to confront the situation in the occupied Arab lands where the Arab masses are pursuing their endeavour for regaining freedom and legitimate rights. The Egyptian president who has just ended a tour of the Gulf has shown that Egypt was deeply concerned on the situation in the Gulf and ready to help its sister Arab states in case of external aggression. His tour was a further step to corroborate the outcome of the Amman Arab summit held in November and his meeting with King Hussein re-emphasises the important role he and King Hussein are playing for ending issues of concern to the Arab countries. Needless to say that the Agaba meeting was another demonstration of the close ties between Egypt and Jordan and a signal for the enemies of the Arab Nation that solidarity has been achieved among Arabs at all levels.

Sawt Al Shaab: Egypt assumes role

THE talks held in Aqaba Saturday between King Hussein and President Mubarak came amidst serious developments in the Arab region and against a background of stepped up violence in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The meeting was devoted to discussing the situation in the Israeli-held territory where the Arab masses are pursuing a revolt against the Israeli authorities and their repressive measures. The two leaders discussed the situation at the eastern flank of the Arab World where the nation is threatened by the Iranian aggression on Iraqi soil. Despite the elapse of eight years, the Iranian regime insists on pursuing a losing war against Iraq and rejects all peace bids and U.N. Security Council resolutions to bring peace to the Gulf region. Mubarak's talks with the King are of extreme importance as they come at a time when the Arabs are facing serious events, requiring consultations and coordination among Arab countries. We hope that Egypt will shoulder its leading responsibility towards its sister Arab states and help the Arab Nation confront and

Between the trap of marriage and the blessings of divorce

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By Waleed Sadi

ELIAS Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, was quoted recently as saying that in the wake of the Palestinian popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel was left with only two options: Either to annex these Arab territories and incorporate their inhabitants or to withdraw from them and set free their people. To drive home his prognosis more vividly, Freij challenged Israel to either "marry" the West Bank and Gaza Strip with their indigenous Palestinian people or to "divorce" them completely. In concluding that there was no longer room for any in-between viable solutions to the Palestinian predicament and Israeli dilemma, Freij was expressing the sentiment of the majority of the Palestinian people still in captivity and a state of limbo. But is this bottom lime assessment an act of desperation on the part of the Palestinians or truly a rational diagnosis of the forty odd years stalemate in the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Palestinian case in particular? On closer look this suggested panacea to the Palestinian case is no different from the exhausted Arab proposal to trade peace with Israel for the Arab territories occupied since 1967. Yet Israel has not responded positively and affirmatively to this early Arab sane offer and it looks like it is not going to reply to this trade-off proposal. The reason for Israel is obvious: It, Israel, has concluded a long time ago that it and it alone shall "giveth" and "taketh" peace in the Middle East as it continues to have most of the cards in its hands. At least this is what Israel, leaders and people, think and think with confidence and conceit. Accordingly, Israel holds with contempt all Arab offers to sign peace treaties with it in return for their territories lost in the 1967 war. Deep inside their hearts and minds Israeli leaders ridicule such an extension of Arab olive branches and view them as detached from reality and the dictates of realpolitik.

Accordingly Freij's challenge to israel will be metted the same treatment as the one accorded to the Arab offer to exchange peace for territory. Israel is no fool and not likely to take the bate of annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip if it implies "marrying" the Palestinian people on them as well. To be sure Israel continues to covet the Arab territories but fears the "offsprings" that will be conceived as a result of incorporating the Palestinian people in the Israeli body politic. And any Israeli designs to cause mass expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip will surely be frustrated by their "steadfastness" and their recognition and remembrance of the fatal blunder that their fathers and forefathers had committed in the wars of 1947-48, when they succumbed to Jewish carefully orchestrated terror and intimidation to drive out the majority of the Palestinians from their towns and cities in Palestine. It appears more probable than not

that the Palestinian people under occupation are now more determined than ever to stay put in their country come what may. In a mushell Israel would continue to shun annexation of Arab territories as long as the people on them ching to their bonnes, towns and cities. Instead Israel would most likely sock alternate sch and plans which it thinks will assure them the irreconcilable objectives of having the cake and eating st. Such schemes would envisage de facto annexation on a creeping basis rather than a de jure one and a "common law" marriage with the Palestinian people which would entail having the "sweets" of interrelations without the "legal responsibilities" normally associated with "lawful mar-Sari Nuseibeh, a Palestinian leader and intellectual in lerusalem summed up this situation to me not too long ago in this way: "Israel is surely taking us, the Palestinians willy saily to the

bed of some sort of matrimony. The only question left is how and on what basis." The Israeli reply to Freij's challenge would surely provide all parties with the final answer to all their questions and anxieties. But let's not, Arabs, make the fatal mistake of waiting for an Israeli reply to our inquiry. The Arabs have still many cards to play and their situation is not as bankrapt as some would like us to believe. The Arab side is still alive and kacking and it can provide its own answer to its own question.

Strategies of Palestinian resistance

By Chris Mannings and Joost R. Hiltermann

DURING the past months life in the occupied territories has been marked by pitched battles be-tween Palestinian youths throwing stones and Israeli soldiers using live ammunition in a renewed confrontation between the occupier and its subject population. Provocations by Jewish fanatics at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the killing of eight residents of Gaza at the beginning of October led to prolonged clashes throughout the territories. Earlier this year, the killing of a student at Birzeit University and of several children in the Balata refugee camp, as well as a prolonged hunger strike by Palestinian political prisoners, triggered similar clashes.

However these single events which provoked a mass response should not be considered in isolation. They all add up to a pattern of constant pressure felt by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza generally and, most strongly, by the younger generations which have grown up entirely under Israeli rule and have no stake in the status quo. These youths are increasingly eager to seize any opportunity to show that Israel's military occupation is not accepted.

This renewed confrontation has prompted Israelis to acknowledge that the violence within the territories is intrinsic to the structure of the occupation which has been imposed on the Palestinian population. This new realisation is not necessarily communicated to outside opinion. For example, in a speech to the U.N. Security Council following the killing of the two Birzeit students, the Israeli ambassador to the U.N. resorted to Israel's conventional version of events when he asserted that the disturbances .. part of an attempt by the PLO the territories on the PLO, then it

to murder prospects for peace by inciting to riot.'

This stock Israeli position presented for external consumption on the international stage, which attributes all responsibility for unrest in the territories to "incitement" by the PLO, was hastily revised by Israeli commentators for an internal audience. Israel TV reported, on 14 December 1986, that the head of the civil administration for the West Bank and Gaza, Ephraim Sneh, considered the disturbances in the territories mainly as a spontaneous expression of the frustration of the residents and not as primarily due to PLO agitation.

what is fast becoming apparent is that confrontation is increasingly direct but immediate.

Further, the respected Israeli military correspondent for The Jerusalem Post, Hirsh Goodman, explained, in an article on February 20, 1987, that "whereas in the past unrest was primarily 'imported', for the past few months it has become clear that it is intrinsic. No longer is the Israeli Defence Force pitted in battle in the territories mainly against terrorism, but against indigenous ideologies... that flourish; not die, when countered with force. The enemy has been transformed... to students and schoolchildren; the weapons, from bombs and grenades to stones, placards and slogans."

In the aftermath of the invasion of Lebanon and to justify that the Israeli government has been forced to claim that it broke the PLO. If that is indeed true, and if the thrust of past Israeli policy that followed the killings were has been to blame any unrest in

becomes problematic to explain the Palestinian population's contiqued refusal to acquiesce to occupation. The authorities have therefore been forced to look for another culprit. Hence, the introspective look by some, such as Sneh, at the very nature of the occupation itself.

To residents of the territories who witness the current struggle of the younger generations against the occupation, this recognition amongst Israelis appears belated, if not naive. "They are pondering the situation as if it has only just occurred to them, as if it has not been a constant feature of resistance in the occupied territories," says Haidar Abdul Shafi, the head of the Red Crescent Society in Gaza. "But what is fast becoming apparent is that confrontation is increasingly direct and immediate. It is at root a response to Israeli intransi-

This new-found Israeli position may be self-delusion, but it might also be a reaction to new developments that have taken place in terms of political organisation in the occupied territories since the mid-1970s. From that period, Palestinians who were frustrated with what was starting to look like a prolonged military occupation began laying the foundations for a new social infrastructure, To this end they established organisations such as women's committees, voluntary work committees and trade unions, all of which are now beginning to turn into significant vehicles for political change as a result of their broad and potentially powerful

Ramallah lawyer and human rights activists Muna Rishmawi describes the two decades of opposition to the occupation in terms of two general attitudes: "In the early years of occupation people thought it would not take long, and that direct action was the best course. By the mid-1970s people began to recognise the fact that this was not an occupation which would be over quickly. Hence the growth in the following period of the universities, development associations, trade union activity and so on."

"By the mid-1970s people began to realise the occupation would not be over quickly."

A period of organisation, aimed at drawing in a much larger section of the population, was heraided in. The leadership of this new kind of organisation was young and pragmatic. They had acquired their political education during what was for many of them almost a lifetime under occupation. Hiyam, a 24-year-old activist in one of the progressive women's committees in the Gaza Strip, recounts: "We want as many people as possible to enter into the work of the unions and women's committees, not only those who are appointed, or the most capable. There is a role for everyone."

Hiyam and activists, like her are convinced that to succeed, the struggle they have embarked upon must be multi-faceted. They regret the over-emphasis on military resistance in the early years of the occupation, while recognising the role it played in forging a national identity and purpose. Confronted with repression and dogged denial of avenues for political expression, they were forced to redefine means of resisting an intransigent occupier. Referring to the new Palestinian response to the Israelis' stubborn refusal to compromise on anything related to the occupation, Haidar Abdul

Shafi commented that "the arena of political activity in coming years will be more and more focused on the claiming of basic human rights. Today there is significant activ-

ity on a popular level around

issues of social concern: Educa-

tion, development, voluntary

work and human rights. The need for such activities stems largely from the nature of the occupation, which has suffocated normal life. Such organisations are therefore engaged in a struggle that is both explicitly political, directed against an occupation which de-nies Palestinians their right to exist as a nation, and social, aimed at the very survival of a society borne down by occupation. The trade union movement is a good example of this. Revived in the late 1970s, the movement has grown so large that the military authorities are seriously worried, especially - and most recently - in Gaza. Dr. Abdul Shafi pinpointed the military government's concern by remarking that "the most worrying aspect of the emerging union movement in Gaza for the Israelis is not that it will be a front for political organising on nationalist issues, but that the effect of organised Palestinian labour on the Israeli

This concern is evidenced by the beavy-handed Israeli treatment of trade unions and their members. It is clear that the authorities appreciate the potential threat posed by this broader based movement, which opposes the occupation on a most basic level. The treatment by the Israelis of a generation of young tical activists are clearly prepared for an extended period of strugmerging of the political aspiration for national independence with the day-to-day experience of living in a society oppressed, in all achievable goals of a social nature aspects of its existence, for over

economy could be immense."

The new orientation of the younger generation of political activists toward basic issues of human rights, such as the right to education and the right to freedom of association, has in a way caught the Israelis on the wrong foot. To return to Hiyam: "People began to realise that they have the right to hold elections, for example. We can exploit the way that Israel has presented itself to the world as a peaceloving, democratic state. When they attempt to close down a nursery or ban union elections. this undermines the image they have tried to create of themselves for the rest of the world."

The trade union movement... has grown so large that the authorities are seriously worried, especially in Gaza.

Despite the optimism displayed by the young emergent leadership, the harsh facts of occupation do not escape Palestinians. Although even the Israeli defence ministry has recently doubted the wisdom of an expanding settlement programme given the economic frailty of many existing settlements, over half the land in the West Bank has been transferred to Israeli hands during the past 20 years. The extent of israeli control over resources human, land and water - in the occupied territories has borne out many Palestinians' contention that what is taking place is not just a military occupation but a wholesale colonisation. Yet political activists are clearly prepared gle, displaying a bitherto unacknowledged need for continuity. while narrowing their focus on - Middle East International.

Spanish-Israeli relations strained on second anniversary of recognition

By Susan Linnee

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Two years after Spain became the last Westem European nation to recognise Israel, relations between the two countries are strained, diplomats and news analysts say. Recent Israeli actions against Palestinian demonstrators in occupied territories have added to the difficul-

In the latest flareup over relations with Israel, six Spanish attorneys and judges visited there in early January and sharply criticised conditions in occupied areas. The Spanish-Israeli Friendship Association struck back with full-page newspaper advertisements criticising the jurists' remarks and claiming a "mindless anti-Zionism" was emerging in Spain.

Spain's decision to recognise Israel, on Jan. 17, 1986, was largely viewed as necessary for it to enter the European Economic Community. The act was in contrast to Spain's historic closeness to Arab countries.

"We had a lot of expectations, perhaps a little above the normal," Mordechai Amichai, first secretary of the Israeli embassy, said of the establishment of ties. "But when we established relations, the Spanish told us of their position on the Middle East, so nothing is really new."

The government of Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez supports the creation of a Palestinian homeland, and is a strong backer of an international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel has been wary of such a conference.

Trade is a high point in Spanish-Israeli relations, Amichai said, amounting to \$200 million a year. Most of the trade is exports of Spanish cars to Israel, while Israel exports \$20 million in chemicals, phosphates and equip-

ment to Spain. But Amichai said the Spanish government's last-minute postponement of a scheduled visit to Madrid late last year by Israeli

Trade Minister Ariel Sharon and a group of Israeli businessmen was a "principal negative point" in relations.

Spanish officials, alluding to Sharon's role in the Israeli attacks on Palestinan refugee camps outside Beirut in June 1982, claimed his visit was "inopportune."

The Gonzalez government was among the first to criticise Israeli actions against Palestinians when protests broke out last month on the West Bank and in Gaza. In a Dec. 16 statement, the

government deplored the violence, said it "condemns the acts that have led to the high number of deaths and injuries" and reminded Israel of its obligations to the Palestinians under the 1949 Geneva treaty on occupied terri-

in a new year's message to the diplomatic corps widely inter-preted in the Spanish press as referring specifically to incidents in Israeli-occupied territories, Spanish King Juan Carlos referred pointedly to the "situation in the Middle East" and called for a "rapid settlement... above all so there is respect for human dignity and the elementary right to life."

The group of liberal attorneys and judges that visited the occupied territories condemned the Israeli occupation. Juan Maria Bandres, a Spanish legislator and the group's unofficial spokesman, said the group had seen "the horror of a military occupation in which everything is permitted" because in the territories "for Palestinian citizens, there are no political or citizens' rights."

In an interview on Spanish state television, Israeli ambassador Shlomo Ben-Ami angrily criticised the motives of the group, which, he claimed, had travelled to the occupied territories with "preconceived notions." Ben-Ami is an Oxford-edu-

cated historian specialising in 20th-century Spanish history. The newspaper ad criticising the jurists' group, entitled "the other side of the coin," was prepared by a committee of the

Spanish-Israeli Friendship Association, including the Israeli embassy press attache, and submitted to the liberal El Pais and the conservative ABC by the Israeli embassy.

It said a "mindless anti-Zionism" appeared to be replacing an earlier "mindless anti-Semitism" in Spain, and concluded that "neither jurists' declarations nor sending young demonstrators into the streets" would advance the well-being of Palestinians. Commentator Felipe Mellizo,

speaking on a popular morning

radio talk show, called the ad "shameful" and said it was time for the Israelis to realise the error of their ways. Socialist Party official Enrique

Mugica Herzog, one of the four vice-presidents of the friendship association, told El Pais it seemed an "anti-Israeli campaign" was underway in Spain.

The establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries took place in a ceremony in the Dutch capital, The Hague, 494 years after Queen Isabella expelled thousands of Spanish Jews from the land they called Sephar-

the time that the ceremony was held outside the country because of fear of reprisals from Spain's traditional Arab friends. On the day relations were

established, Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez promised to raise the status of the decade-old Madrid representative office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The foreign ministry says the PLO office now has "a status similar to that of other diplomatic missions" without being an embassy. Spain's slowness in recognising tors, including Gen. Francisco Franco's belief that the country's traditional ties with North African and Arab states would suffer - and on the fact that as its first act as a member of the United Nations, Israel voted against Spanish admission to the international organisation.

Spain's Jewish community. most of which arrived from Morocco when the North African nation gained its independence from France in 1956, numbers

Frustration builds as Palestinians in Egypt watch Gaza uprising

By Dalia Baligh The Associated Press

RAFAH, Egypt — Since early December, Rafah's Palestinians have watched as Israeli soldiers in Gaza, 40 metres away, use gunfire and tear gas to quell demon-

Some targets of the gas gre-nades and bullets are relatives and friends. Rafah's Palestinians talk of hearing wails for help and of

seeing people shot at the wire fence marking the no-man's land dividing this border town. They talk of breathing Israeli tear gas borne by the wind into their

And, undaunted by the turmoil they have been watching, Rafah's Palestinians talk of going home, back to Gaza.

"Of course we have to go back to our land," said Riyadh, a school teacher. "Even if Israelis kill us there, we will have died for our land."

Riyadh — like many in Rafah, he wouldn't give his full name is one of more than 5,000 Palestinians separated from their fellows when Israel returned the

under the peace treaty signed three years earlier. Palestinian Rafah was in Egyp-

tian-administered Gaza, a 25mile-long strip down Israel's western side, until Israel captured the strip and the Sinai in the 1967 war. The town spread during the next 15 years into Israeli-occupied Sinai.

When Israel withdrew from Sinai and barriers went up on either side of the border, 560 Palestinian families found their houses in Egypt. They settled in Camp Canada, so named because Canadian peace-keepers with a United Nations force once billeted there, waiting to go home.

"In 1982, we were promised that we would be transferred to our land," said Attiya Abdul Aziz Moussalem, Camp Canada's mayor. "We are still asking that this promise be kept."

The uprising in Gaza and the West Bank, which began Dec. 8 and has cost more than 39 Palestinian is the tent soon. it will be kept soon.

Initially, Rafah's Palestinians were told they would have to wait six months. Lukewarm Egyptian-Israeli relations led to arguments Sinai peninsula to Egypt in 1982 about financial compensation for

the families. The talks are dragging on, leaving the Palestinians in a state of limbo in Egypt's only refugee camp.

Permission to visit families and friends in Rafah, occupied Gaza, is costly and limited. For almost six years, the Palestinians have communicated mainly by shouting through the wire fences.
"Only half of me is here. The

other half is with my daughters, who are married and live in Palestinian Rafah," said Fatma, an elderly Palestinian woman who sat in her small Arab-style home with a courtyard and wellbuilt rooms within a fenced-in

"We used to keep in touch by exchanging news across the fence," she said. "Now I don't know what we will do."

Although the Camp Canada refugees live in relative comfort, with clean homes, the school and a clinic, they have other prob-

ity, the young find few jobs after graduation from school or university. Scores of youths while away their days aimlessly milling Many refugee families depend solely on food rations from Egyp-tian and international relief organisations, which don't always arrive on time, every two months.

The camp is filled with tales of split families and their daily strug-

Nawai, young and pretty, lives with her mother and year-old daughter. Her husband is on the Israeli side, and Nawal sees him only for a month every six

"He can't come and live here because he won't find work. I can only get permission to visit him every six months, and that costs 200 pounds (almost \$100), which is very expensive," Nawal said. Moussalem, the community's mayor, said he was told that Egypt has agreed in the repatriation negotiations to pay \$8,000 to each family to help with construction of a house in Gaza on land

provided by the Israelis. "I met with the governor general of Gaza last week."
Moussalem said.

"He said, 'We're ready to take you when the Egyptians pay you the compensation, but now it's being discussed again between about the camp's dusty streets. the Egyptians and the Israelis.



months.

Iraqis at the Babylon province welcome Arab and friendly poets (file photo)

Marbedians, and other aliens in the land of Mesopotamia

By Nermeen Murad Special to the Jordan Times

CLAD in army uniforms furnished for the occasion by the Iraqi government, visitors of the Marbid Festival of Arts and Culture, labelled as "Marbedians," got their dress rehearsal for their first visit to the war front. Some began day-dreaming about joining the war as fighters. They were taken by buses for a two-hour drive for their first encounter with the "real war."

State -

Jordanians, Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians, Yemenis and other Arabs sang popular patrio-tic songs, and occasionally, looked out of the windows at gradually increasing signs of war — armoured vehicles, men in uniforms and the artillery observation posts.

The "soldiers of culture" finally arrived at their destination. They rushed out of buses and entered a theatre decorated with welcoming signs specially set for the occasion. Poets emotionally recited their prepared poems and "Marbedians" got more and more excited about their impending participation in the "war of bonour."

After reciting their poems, of the occasion occasion of the occasion of the occasion sion, the "soldiers" rushed back to their buses, wonderous, fearless but unsure about how the whole thing will eventually turn

> This time the Marbedians were divided into smaller groups of about 20 each, and were sent to different parts of the war front escorted with an armed soldier and a few army personnel.

Around an hour later, our little bus arrived at an army post hidden behind short sandy hills, where we were welcomed by the commanding officers of the post. Even in that remote refuge on the war front, Arab hospitality did not fail the Marbedians, and with the little cups of Arabic hot coffee and cold refreshments, the barrage of questions started pouring on the Iraqi commanders. The concern was on the situation on the front and the steadfastness

of Iraqi defences. "We are doing well," the commanding officer answered one question. "It is a bloody war, but we are holding fast. Nothing can penetrate our lines now."

According to the commanding officer several elements converged to cause the break of the war. He accused the superpowers of manipulating the countries in the area to serve their interests.

There are strategic, political, cultural and economic reasons for this war," explained the comman-

ding officer. Strategic, because throughout the history of this area as we know it, the Middle East has always been divided into two fronts serving the benefits of the two superpowers. One front, serving the United States strategic interests, stretching in the area from the Arabian peninsula, including the Gulf area, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria etc., while the other front which serves the Soviet Union strategic interests includes Iran, Afghanis-

tan and Pakistan." Political reasons fall within the same line of reasoning that serve the interests of the one or the other superpower. Cultural reasons were identified by the commanding officer as an attempt by these superpowers to "hinder the emergence of any cuitural power that the people of the area may obtain as a con-tinuation of their historical cultural supremacy."

"Trade explains itself," he added. "We are growing largely dependent on the Western world for trade and imports because of the continued unsettled state of affairs in the area." So, he added, "the continuation of this war serves their economic interests because it deviates the Arab countries economies from trade to war. This of course added to the fact that as long as the war best market for arms."

Shaking his head, the commanding officer added: "We are like little chess pieces being manipulated by the two big players."
With these thoughts brewing in

the minds of Marbedians, they were led to a hilly area overlooking the warfront, where one could see the zigzaging borders with Iran. To the dismay of many and to the satisfaction of one who continuously asked "can they see me from here?" there was no exchange of fire and things were calm on this particular front.

After this arresting view of the enemy's borders, the "soldiers" were led into the mini bus again and driven to a military camp for lunch. The Marbedians were met by the commanding officer of the whole region and here began the most moving debate and discussion about Iran's horrible acts committed against Iraqi prisoners

"A number of 138 Iraqis were caught by the Iranians. They were slaughtered like sheep, one after the other with absolutely no mercy or regard to international -conventions," said the senior commanding officer. "This is astronomical. And the war's what the hadis have learnt to effect on people's lives and their

continues the area remains the fields to clear the way for an armoured attack."

"These people could not possibly be related to Islam or its teachings. Even the method they use in killing the prisoners are very similar to how Zarathustrians (Majous) used to kill sheep when sacrificing them to their gods," he said.

Marbedians used the occasion to relate to the Iraqi military officials their support for the Iraqi people and their misgivings about the war and the scope of its impact on the citizens of Iraq.
A lavish lunch followed this

heart to heart conversation and the Marbedians ended their day on the war front and headed back to Baghdad.

A trip which started with patriotic songs and dreams of entering the Iraqi army, ended with a dead-quiet ride back to Baghdad. Each of the Marbedians was reviewing in his or her mind the extent of the Iranian regime's lack of regard to human life.

The irony of the whole war is that it does not serve the interests of either the peoples of Iran or Iraq. The cost for the two countries, both human and material, is

Young Egyptians work to turn the desert green

NUBARIA, Egypt — Young men and women squeezed out of Cairo, Egypt's crowded and noisy capital, are trying to make the desert bloom and grow food for the country's booming popula-

In the midst of the desiccated landscape of the western desert, 30-year-old Abdul Hamid Hassan is one of 230 university graduates trying to sow a better future for himself and his country. "Tomorrow we will turn this den into a fashionable villa," he

said, pointing to his two-room. cement house with no running

His wife, Abeer, nodded agreement. "I have always vanted to live far from the noisy

cities," she said. Their optimism was shared by

other young couples. The government has granted each of them four hectares (10 acres) of reclaimed land in the heart of the desert about 250 kilometres west of Cairo.

Leaving family and friends, as well as an acute housing and job shortage in Cairo, they volunteered to live in the middle of

The government provides a house, agricultural equipment, seeds, water, electricity, food and a monthly salary of 50 Egyptian pounds (\$22) as part of drive to encourage cultivation of the de-

Abeer said she had no second thoughts about making the move and was not bothered by the lack of a proper bathroom or kitchen.

"I think this is the challenge... If we live an easy life, we will not have the motivation to work hard," she said.

Egypt's 52 million people have long lived along the banks of the river Nile in a country where only four per cent of the land is cultivated and more than half the food is imported.

In view of Egypt's rapidly increasing population — a million new people every eight months ---President Hosni Mubarak has called upon young people to leave the banks of the Nile, invade the desert and turn it green.

"He who does not produce his own food cannot be free," is the slogan used by Mubarak, who ordered that at least 60,700 hectares (150,000 acres) of desert must be reclaimed every year. The government approved an

ambitious five-year plan starting after a grace period of three in 1987 to reclaim 303,500 hectares (750,000 acres) of desert at a total cost of 941 million Egyptian pounds (\$428 million).

Saleh Muawad, chairman of the Agricultural Development Organisation, said about 40,470 hectares (100,000 acres) of land had been reclaimed and distributed over the past 11 months. It had gone to university gradu-

ates, poor farmers and some Arab investors. A further 30,350 hectares (75,000 acres) in the western desert and on the Mediterranean coast would be distributed by the

Muawad said Arab investors paid cash for their plots. But graduates and poor farmers paid for the land over 30 years at an interest rate of three per cent,

end of April.

Officials said drip or spray irrigation was used at desert projects to save water and protect Egypt from the effects of low flood cycles which have caused droughts in East African coun-

tries over the past several years. "We have no irrigation problems here, thanks to the new technology," said 28-year-old Has-san Sadeek, a graduate who has been farming at Nubaria for nine

He pointed proudly to small bushes of beans covering his 10 acres and said he expected a good harvest in a few weeks.

"I left a good-paying job in Cairo to come here... Believe me, nothing is better than producing your own food," he said.

Pakistani companies draw funds and official wrath

By Ibrahim Khan Reuter

KARACHI — Pakistan's small investors can either put their money in the banks - annual return 12 to 16 per cent - or they can opt for illicit private investment companies paying anywhere from 50 to 150 per cent.

Not surprisingly, the banks are losing out. They are in theory not allowed to charge interest at all as it is banned under Islamic banking rules.

And, although they have devised ways of paying investors a return, such as profit-and-loss share accounts, the rewards from the private players are so much higher that people are flocking to

They are convenient, profitable and totally illegal, operating under the nose of the state (central) bank with no books, no taxes and no government control.

Bankers estimate several hundred companies regularly pay out interest at clients' doors. The more brazen even advertise in the

The banks, state-owned since 1973, are up in arms about it. On January 7 the head of the Karachi stock exchange called for government action Two days later Finance Minis-

ter Yasin Khan Wattoo said the state bank and corporate law authority were taking steps to put a stop to the practice. He promised "severe" measures but gave no details. Jahan Ara. 38, a hosewife with

five children at school, invested expect from a regime which sends well-being will probably last 20,000 rupees (\$1,140) to boost their own children into mine much longer than the war itself. I the income from her textile-worker: husband's 1.850-rupee (\$105) monthly pay. She says her investment yields seven per cent a

"A man delivers a small, white envelope containing 1,400 rupees (\$80) at my doorstep in the second week of every month, without needing any signature," she says. "I use 1,000 rupees (\$57) a month to repay a loan and

spend the rest." Thousands of other people in Karachi have pulled nest-eggs out from under the mattress, tempted by the interest rates. Others have encashed stocks, sold property and withdrawn their savings from bank accounts, say stock and estate brokers.

"We get up to 10 per cent profit every month on our investments and pay back up to seven per cent," says investment company owner Abdul Razzaq. "We still make a profit.

Most of the funds are invested in Karachi's flourishing realestate and construction business, where annual returns rise as high

as 100 per cent. Despite a creaking infrastruc-

ture and occasional ethnic riots. the port city of over seven million is something of a boom town. It has close links with the Gulf and attracts up to 250,000 migrants, mainly from inside Pakistan, each

Some of the money is lent at high rates to industrialists and importers unable to obtain capital from the government's banks because of tight credit policies.

Stock and estate dealers say some cash undoubtedly ends up in illegal businesses but little goes into Karachi's flourishing drugs

Bankers say the thriving illicit business is hampering government efforts to raise Pakistan's chronically low investment level. seen by both economists and the state bank as a major obstacle to national economic development.

"It has definitely drained out money from savings accounts, said a branch manager of one of the five nationalised banks.

"Most of the small depositors have withdrawn money" another

'Americans are reluctant internationalists bachev, it says most people think different concerns."

By Tony Barber

WASHINGTON — Americans are reluctant internationalists, emotionally drawn to isolationism but sensing that the United States must play an active world role, concluded a survey released

Many U.S. citizens feel that stubborn enemies and passive allies abroad are sapping American strength, but they recognise the post-1945 era of U.S. supremacy in the world is certain to

end one day, the survey says. The study, by the independent Roosevelt Centre for American Policy Studies, says most Americans support existing U.S. alliances but are suspicious of military involvement in areas such as the Middle East or the developing world.

In a piece of news that would cheer Soviet leader Mikhail Gor- country that naturally you find

Moscow is just as keen as Washington to avoid nuclear war. Instead, people worry that new countries will acquire nuclear weapons and spark a war.

Christopher Makins, a Roosevelt Centre director who helped prepare the survey, said it revealed that Americans have strong views on foreign affairs even though they freely admit their knowledge of specific sub-jects is not all it could be. He rejected as too sweeping a

view often heard abroad and among some U.S. intellectuals that Americans know much less than foreigners about world

"In Western Europe, you would not find a greater degree of involvement and knowledge of international problems," he told Reuters. 'The U.S. is such a large and, in a sense, remote

The report was based on group discussions — a survey technique widely used in the United States between 110 people represent-

ing a range of ages, incomes and

educational backgrounds. All had

voted in elections in 1984 or 1986. The discussions were held between last June and September in seven cities - Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh, Seattle. Birmingham, Alabama, and Nashua, New Hampshire.

Makins said the survey confirmed conclusions reached in public opinion polls --- for example, that a majority of people would oppose sending U.S. troops into a war in Central

It also suggested many Americans are anxious about the U.S. position in the world. In a discussion group in Chicago, seven people out of 10 supported the idea that "a significant portion of the

world hates the United States." One Chicago woman, recalling the U.S. air attack on Libya in April 1986, was quoted as saving: "When we flew over Libya, bombed Libya last year, I practically jumped up and down. I was so happy that for once we retaliated against somebody that has been treating us like dirt."

Makins said candidates in November's presidential election would do well to study the survey's suggestion that Americans want a leader who does not overwhelm them with the minutiae of foreign affairs but has a broad, easily understood message.

"I am struck by how much the intra-party debates in both parties have focused on specific issues," he said. "Part of the electorate's mind is looking for proof of competence on specific issues but overall they want something more general.

Britain's House of Lords now has a rabbi, but still no Catholic prelate

The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's chief rabbi is joining 26 Anglican bishops in the House of Lords, but there still are no Catholic prelates in the august body four centuries after Henry VIII broke with the

church of Rome. Anglicans express no objection, but Roman Catholic leaders say they aren't interested - not because bitterness remains after 400 years, but because Pope John Paul II disapproves of priests

becoming politicians. They say that will keep Catholic clergy out of the House of Lords, despite renewed calls for a lordly cardinal after chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits was ennobled in the new year's honours

John Paul's stricture apparently applies just as much to joining Britain's unelected and comparatively powerless upper chamber

in Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government or the U.S. Con-

"It would be very difficult to justify a special case for the British in the eyes of the rest of the church," said Monsignor George Leonard, spokesman for Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the 4 million Catholics in England and

"We might say, 'for beaven's sake, this is different; it's the mother of parliaments.' But that wouldn't cut much ice in Spain, or northern Italy or Nicaragua,' he told the Associated Press.

Leonard added, however: The concern in Britain is a marvellous tribute to the new atmosphere of ecumenical friendship.

It is 453 years since Cardinal John Fisher was beheaded for remaining loyal to Rome after Henry VIII created the Church of England with himself at its head.

1935. Queen Elizabeth II retains the role of temporal head of the Church of England, which the oft-married Henry assumed when he broke with Rome in 1534 after being refused a divorce from

Catherine of Aragon.

Modern monarchs are the formal bestowers of life peerages but the prime minister does the

No one is saying whether Hume has refused a royal summons to the Lords, although Catholic sources say the cardinal personally would consider a peerage inappropriate.

Asked whether a pecrage is proper for any ordained minister in modern Britain, legal adviser Brian Hanson of the Anglican

"We think so. They see their role as monitoring legislation to make sure the Christian conscience is not forgotten in what is still

country. The presence in the Lords of the 26 senior Anglican bishops, led by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, dates to the medieval royal habit of summoning the aristocracy and cierics for advice. Thus was parliament born, and the Anglican bishops still are called the lords spiritual.

Others in the 1.100-member chamber, known as the Lords Temporal, are hereditary nobles and about 400 appointed life peers. Most of the life peers are politicians, but they include two non-Anglican ordained ministers apart from the new lord Jakobo-

Lord Soper, a distinguished preacher, pacifist, socialist and onetime president of the British Methodist Conference, was given a peerage in 1965. Lord MacLeod of Fuinary, a Presbyterian now 92 years old, is former moderator, or head, of the Church of Scot-

Only a few hundred peers, usually with one or two bishops among them, attend sessions of the House of Lords. Their powers are restricted to delaying for up

to six months legislation passed by the elected House of Com-Soper, 84, said: "There is clearly something radically wrong with the fact that the only religious leaders automatically there are from the Church of England. But what to do about it is a more

acute question because of the position of the Roman Catho-Catholics make up 10 per cent of Britain's population, com-pared with 60 per cent who are

Anglicans, at least nominally. Since 1534, only one ordained Catholic has been a member of the Lords: The ninth Baron Vaux of Harrowden, who became a Benedictine monk. Leonard recalled that the Baron, who died in

part in a debate on youth clubs. Among the Temporal Lords are 81 Catholics, chief among them the Duke of Norfolk. He is the church's leading layman in Bri-

century. 'We're a hard, strong minority and we ought to be represented," said the duke, who renewed calls for a Catholic priest-peer after a

tain and his title dates to the 15th

Catholic church sources, however, pointed to what one called "the general tightening up by the

pope."
This has included directing an American Jesuit, the Rev. Robert Drinan, to quit the U.S. Congress in 1980. Four priests who ignored papal orders to resign from the Nicaraguan govern-





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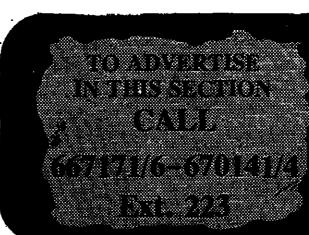
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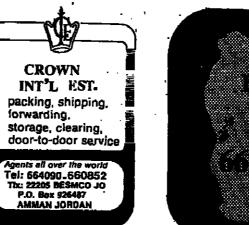
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RESTAURANT





Olympic deadline ends with four countries still undecided

pushed to be allowed to co-host

the games and recently said it

would boycott the Olympics un-

Verdier said the IOC has not

received any official notice from

either North Korea or Cuba, both

of which have threatened to

last week saying it would not participate unless it was named

co-host and would continue to

seek agreement with the IOC on

that issue. Negotiations have been deadlocked since 1985.

final offer. Samaranch proposed

that North Korea could stage the

volleyball, men's 100-kilometre

preliminaries in its capital, Pyon-

Last June, in what he called his

North Korea issued a statement

less its demands were met.

boycott the Seoul Games.

Seoul to host record 161 states with Syria's entry

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — A record 161 countries met Sunday's deadline for giving official notice they will participate in the Summer Olympics. ın International Olympic Committee (IOC) spokesvoman said.

Syria Sunday became the final by politics. Seoul's chief ideolo-country to accept the IOC invitat ons to participate in the Seoul Carnes, which begin Sept. 17. The actual deadline was 2300 (MT Sunday, but no other count ies were expected to give an Cficial reply before then.

There will be no further comruniques officially from the IOC t xday. The final situation will be given by President Juan Antonio amaranch at his press confercace Monday" in Lausanne, said I C spokeswoman Michelle Ver-

The previous record attendence was 140 countries at the 1384 Los Angeles Games.

The Seoul Games will be the 1 rst Summer Olympics in 12 vears to pit Soviet and U.S. hletes against each other, folwing a Soviet-led boycott of the los Angeles Games and a similar 1 '.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow

But they have still been marred

manded more sports and the right to co-host the games.

The IOC and South Korea have said they want North Korea to participate in the Olympics and that Pyongyang may apply to take part even after the deadline passes. Ms. Verdier declined to comment on whether that was still the

She also declined comment when asked about Cuba. The Cuban news agency Prensa Latina reported Friday that Cuba would not participate in the Seoul Olympics unless North Korea was a co-host and there was a guarantee of no-violence.

The agency said President Fidel Castro had sent a letter to Samaranch on the subject. Ms. Verdier said Sunday that the IOC had not received anything official from

Cuba is a close ally of North Korea, but also of the Soviet Union, which will sent a team to the Summer Games.

archery, table tennis, women's Aside from Cuba and North Korea, four other countries have road cycling race and some soccer not given an official response to the IOC — Nicaragua, the Seychelles, Albania and South Korea accepted the proposal, but North Korea de-

longer than the record set by the ultraweight plane Gossamer Albatross when it crossed the English Channel in 1979. The group plans to leave for Greece on Feb. 24 and hopes to make the flight between March

14 and April 12.

Super Bowl.

Super Bowl.

49ers.

Bicyclist

flight

ultralight plane.

mission this fall.

ture.

preparing for

LEXINGTON, Kentucky (AP)

Bicyclist Greg Zack doesn't mind spending six hours a day on

the road or getting up before dawn to practise pedaling an

He is preparing for a 119-km

trip on a pedal-powered airplane

off the coast of Greece, from the

Island of Crete to the Island of

Santorini. And that, he thinks, is

"I'm doing this more for the challenge and the opportunity to

work with a great team," Zack

said last week. "It's the adven-

The 26-year-old bicyclist had

never flown an ultralight plane

before he began training for the

"You're 6 metre off the

ground, and nothing's holding

you up," he said. "It's strange to see your legs going and realise that's what's holding you up. It flies so slowly. It feels like it's

floating in every direction at

Zack is one of five cyclists who,

along with technical crews, have

been training in California's Mo-

jave Desert. If successful, the flight will measure three times

ultraweight

With good weather conditions, the pilot will have to pedal non-stop for an estimated 4½ hours to six hours. The five cyclists will be on a training rotation, waiting for favourable weather, so the deci-sion about who gets to fly the plane will fall to chance.

to represent the National Foot-

ball Conference (NFC) in the

The game marks the first title

game in six years in which the

home team is not the one with

that conference's best regular-

season record. That was assured

when Minnesota eliminated the

While Washington is making its fourth appearance in an NFC title

game in this decade, an NFL high, Minnesota is the surprise guest. The Vikings, who lost all four Super Bowl appearances dur-

ing the 1970s, lost three of their

THE WHEEL ROLLS ON: (Above) the Range Rover number

211 of Smith (Belgium). (Below) wreckage of the DAF truck which crashed during the rally killing its co-driver (Sygma photo)



Fuel prices threaten rally

TIMBUKTU, Mali (R) — Ex- a halt on the finish line at Timpensive, watered-down fuel buktu in fourth place, lifting the almost put Frenchman Patrick Frenchman to fourth from sixth Tambay out of the Paris-Dakar Rally Saturday and sparked a strong reaction from drivers nearing the end of the 22-day race, still led by Finn Ari Vatanen.

Drivers threatened to boycott the event when traders offered fuel - transported 700 kms especially for the race - at \$4 a

gallon. It was eventually sold 25 per cent cheaper. But fuel Tambay bought at Lemjebir. Mali, the previous day was found to have water in it,

forcing him to drain off one of his three tanks. His Range Rover spluttered to overall in the rally.

It was a hat-trick for the Peugeots in the fastest stage of this year's edition of the rally, with Peugeot estimating they touched 200 kph on the sunbaked desert.

Henri Pescarolo of France won the 630-km stage, followed by Finn Juha Kankkunen in second place and Vatanen in third. In spite of yet another puncture, Vatanen still leads the rally from Kankkunen with Japanese Ken Shinozuka, who was sixth

from Lemiebir to Timbuktu, in

the "real" Redskins, who are 9-4

in non-strike games after winning

the NFC East title with an 11-4

record then beating the Bears 21-17 last Sunday. The difference

was in the replacement teams that

went 3-0 and the Vikings 0-3.

"I think we match up very

third overall.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

20th century lady Godiva rides in U.S.

DENVER (AP) - Some football fans' enthusiasm knows no bounds, as shown by the antics in the stands during some televised games, and one fair's deep desire for free tickets led her to emulate the legendary Lady Godiva. Linda Kirchner found herself smiling and naked except for blue body paint while she rode a chestmit horse down Denver's 16th street mail in exchange for two tickets for Sunday's National Football League (NFL) playoff game between the Deaver Broncos and Cleveland Browns. She clutched them to her bare bosom. "I've never done anything like this," she said after Friday's ride before about 75 spectators. "But life begins at 30, and I turn 30 next week, so here am." The self-described yacht broker was the highlight of Broncos-inspired silliness at the downtown mall, where Denver radio station KOAQ-FM gave away 22 nickets to the game. The 11 winners just had to show they were among the metro area's more manic Bronco-maniacs. Ms. Kirchner said she had gone to the mall intending to show off no more than her bikini-clad figure. "But I thought, 'if the crowd wants more'." they'll get more, "she said. The mail is not enclosed, but Ms. Kirchner had the benefit of miki weather with a temperature of 10 C.

'The Greek' fired for remarks on blacks

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. sports commentator Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder was fired by the broadcasting network CBS on Saturday, one day after making controversial remarks about blacks. A statement by the network said: "CBS sports today ended its relationship with Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder. The action follows remarks by Snyder Friday in Washington to a local broadcaster, which have been widely reported." Snyder, who had been with CBS 12 years, said among other things that blacks had been bred to produce bigger and better offspring in times of slavery. He also said if blacks become coaches there will be nothing left for whites. After his comments stirred an uproar. Snyder apologised for his remarks. The CBS statement also said: 'In no way do these comments reflect the views of CBS sports. Mr. Snyder had been a member of the CBS sports team since 1976 and has made important contributions to its success."

Real Madrid beats Sociedad

MADRID (R) - An inspired goal by Emilio Butragueno gave defending champions Real Madrid a 1-0 home win over Real Sociedad and a five-point lead in the Spanish Soccer League Saturday night. The second-half goal by Butragueno, back after a two-week absence through injury, lit up a miserable, rainswept evening which saw most players reduced to a lumbering pace as the pitch became steadily waterlogged. But one goal was enough for Real Madrid to extend their First Division lead after faltering last weekend when they drew 1-1 away to Real Murcia. Michel Gonzalez created the winner when he lobbed the ball to Soanish World Cup striker Butraguepo, who attempted to return the pass before striking home a left-foot shot off a post.

Lendl powers way into open quarterfinals

i iELBOURNE (R) — World 1 umber one Ivan Lendl thuncered into the quarterfinals of the ¿ustralian Open on Sunday, inding down Wally Masur with 1 another display of steamhami er tennis.

Lendl beat Masur 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 and now meets unseeded Todd Vitsken, the last American left in tie men's competition, who e isted Dutchman Menno Oosti g 6-1, 6-2, 6-2. Another Dutchman, Michiel

Chapers, had better luck, finding i umber five seed Yannick Noah

on an off-day in the gusty winds on court one.

Schapers, who last hogged the headlines with a 1985 victory over Boris Becker here, won 2-6, 7-5, 6-3. 7-6.

usual in the women's competition with Americans Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, who suffered shock first set losses during the third round, both winning with ease. Masur, after sharing centre stage with Lendl, joined the chorus line of those tipping the Czechoslovak for the men's

"He hit the ball awfully hard out there. I think he's consistently the hardest hitter in the game as he hits it hard and heavy off both wings," said the Australian number 16 seed. However, it was business as

"It's not impossible to beat him, it's just very difficult, espe-cially on this surface," Masur

Lendl, who has set his sights on winning the Grand Slam this year, was in trouble only once in the match when Masur broke back to 4-4 in the first set.

SV drops 1st point of season in league restart

MSTERDAM (R) — A second l ilf equaliser by Twente's Piet l eur forced leaders PSV Einc hoven to drop their first point of tie season as the Dutch Soccer I eague got back into action after a four-week winter break at the v.eekend.

The 26-year-old striker scored in the 71st minute as Twente snatched a 2-2 draw in Eindhoven 1) put the first blot on PSV's c pybook after a record-breaking in of 17 wins in succession.

Diminutive Belgian internai 1 the 24th minute. But midfiel-

back for Twente ten minutes later

Gerald Vanenburg gave the

at the top and their record of 70 goals in 18 matches without defeat must still make impressive reading for the seven other teams in the quarter-finals of the Euro-

Second-placed Ajax, without a manager after the departure of Johan Cruyff two weeks ago, bounced back from their midpercup final with a 3-0 away er Ron Willems grabbed one victory over struggling Roda.

In-form Dutch international before Dutch international

home side a 2-1 lead at halftime. PSV are still seven points clear Feyenoord keep third spot af-

striker John Bosman scored a first half goal before winger John Van't Schip and Jan Wouters sealed the win after the break to pose Roda more problems in the lower half of the table.

ter a 1-1 draw at Pec Zwolle. Ven Der Waart put the home side ahead ten minutes into the second half before Mario been replied a minute later to secure a

> **Jordan Times** Tel: 667171-6

WASHINGTON (AP) — The final four regular season games to finish 8-7 and qualified for the last time there was a National Football League (NFL) strike the playoffs only when St. Louis lost to Dallas on the final Sunday. Washington Redskins won the

Precedents could be shattered NFI

Since then, they've gone on the That's one of many precedents road to easily beat the teams with the league's best records, 12-3 that could be shattered Sunday when the Redskins take on the New Orleans, 44-10, and the 13-2 Minnesota Vikings for the right 49ers, 36-24.

"Everyone wrote us off," says Minnesota quarterback Wade Wilson, who has thrown 318 passes in regular season and playoffs this season, nearly as many as the 436 he threw in his first six NFL

"So we went to New Orleans and played loose and free and it happened in San Francisco, too. A whole lot of intangibles have come together at the right time." But is Minnesota really a sur-

A team that was 3-13 under Les Steckel just three years ago, the Vikings were 7-9 and the next year and 9-7 last season, drafting wisely and adding three pro Bowl players cut loose by the demise of the United States Football League (USFL) — defensive tackle Keith Millard, offensive tackle Gary Zimmerman and

wide receiver Anthony Carter. They were also aided by the emergence of Chris Doleman, who had 11 sacks and forced seven fumbles after being switched to defensive end from Linebacker, where he was a bust in his first two seasons after being a first-round draft choice in 1985.

Moreover, the "real" Vikings are 10-4, half-a-game better than

evenly," says Redskins quarterback Doug Williams. Williams, another player resurrected from the USFL, is another sidelight to the game, particularly in a season in which the absence

of blacks in sports executive position — and at quarterback in the NFL — have been highlighted. If the Redskins win, Williams could be the first black quarterback to start in a Super Bowl, a

distinction he debunks by saying: "I'm just trying to get to the Super Bowl as a player, black, white, green or yellow."

> Teams clash in NFL final bout

The final minutes. A close game. The winners head to the Super Bowl. The losers go home,

heads hanging.
The Denver Broncos and
Cleveland Browns are familiar with the scenario. They lived through it last January. They might have lived through it again Sunday evening.

Only the setting is different this year. The two best teams in the American Football Conference

(AFC) play at mile high stadium for the right to journey to San Diego and play in the National Football League (NFL) title game. Last season, they met in Cleveland.

Super Bowl

This is what a championship played three games during the 24-day strike — the Redskins game should be," Broncos coach Dan Reeves said. "Two very good teams who were the best in the conference last year and this

> Marty Schottenheimer. Reeves' counterpart with the Browns, cannot argue about the merits of the teams - Denver has the AFC's top offence and Cleveland the No. 1 defence. His main concern is reversing last year's 23-20 overtime defeat.

> The AFC west champions have lost only one non-strike game in Denver in two seasons. Rarely do

> visitors keep matters close.
> "I'd rather be playing here than in Cleveland," said John Elway, Denver's star quarterback who may have cemented his place of honour among the game's great leaders when he drove the Broncos 98 yards (89 metres) in the final moments to tie the Browns last year. Rich Karlis' field goal won it in overtime.

Cleveland's defence is led by pro Bowl cornerbacks Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield and an active group of linebackers. The Browns are relatively healthy and didn't miss nose tackle Bob Golic, out with a broken arm, in last week's victory over Indiana-polis. Dave Puzzuoli, his replacement, made eight tackles and plugged up the middle. Dixon and Minnifield known

they will be under constant pressure from Elway because he is so dangerous when he scrambles. In last year's championship game, Dixon committed too soon to chasing Elway and surrendered a long completion in overtime.

"Nobody really knows how to contain him." Dixon said of Elway, the league's most valuable player this season. 'The best ing you can do is make him uncomfortable, make him do things he really doesn't want to

figure in the game. Browns quarterback Bernie Kosar led the conference in passing. In just his third season, Kosar has become a master at reading defences and not throwing the ball up for grabs. If Elway has one significant drawback, it's his willingness to throw into traffic.

Just as Elway vs. Dixon and Minnifield could be a decisive matchup, so might Kosar against the injury-riddled Denver secondary. The Broncos already have used three strong safeties this season, with Mike Harden their best defensive back - now sidelined with a broken arm.

Before Harden went down last week, pro Bowl safety Dennis Smith and Randy Robbins, his backup, also were injured. Smith is expected to return this week, but could be rusty.

Tel: 677420

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE USA **FOR WOMEN AND MEN** IN PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS, MANUFACTURING, **SERVICES**

The Ministry of Planning in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), invites women and men who are Jordanian citizens with good written and spoken English to apply for short term training that will be useful to private sector businesses.

Training in practical business skills will be provided for up to 6 months at many universities and businesses such as Harvard, University of California, Arthur D. Little, Howard University, and others, in such fields as Marketing, Management, Engineering Management, Banking, Accounting, Computers, Production, Quality Control, Women Entrepreneurs, and more. Applicants or their employers must contribute towards the cost of the

applicants to identify the most useful training opportunity within the United States for the individual and the business, and will make all arrangements.

USAID training specialists will work with employers and

APPLICANTS AND EMPLOYERS interested in this opportunity should write in English to: The Ministry of Planning, Training Section P.O. Box 555, Amman

USAID, Training Office P.O. Box 354, Amman.

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT IS LADIES NIGHT

THE H & R CLUB 50% Discount on Drinks with no cover charge for ladies.



ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that courses in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on January, 30, and will last for 16 weeks. Two programmes will be offered.

1. The intensive programme in which classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. The fee for these courses is JD 140 per term.

2. The regular programme in which classes meet 6 hours per week (5:30-7:10 Saturday, Monday and Wednesday). The fee for these courses is JD 50 per term.

Those interested, please call at the Language Centre for registration between January 23-27, 1988.

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Contact Tel. 662672.

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Apartment consists of 3 bedrooms, dining room, salon, 2 bathrooms, guests bathroom and veranda, with independent central heating. Location: Um Uthaina, near San Rock Hotel,

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3-5 years secretarial experience.

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ANNOUNCEMENT THE EMBASSY OF

SWIZERLAND

Announces that it moved its offices to the 4th Circle. Jabal Amman, next to Salaheddin Mosque. The embassy will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday, and will start to receive visitors in its new premises as of Wednesday, January 20, 1988.

New telephone nos. 686416 and 686417.

Cinema CONCORD

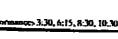
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Customs director rules out cut in Jordan's duty rates to offset high foreign exchange

AMMAN (J.T.) — Collections of customs duties by Jordanian authorities during the past year regstered ID 9 million more than those of the previous year, according to Customs Department Director Adel Qudah.

He said that the increase can be attributed to the fact that some commodities and imports like cars were charged according to foreign exchange rates against the Jordanian currency.

The imposition of customs duties on goods imported for government departments and the introduction of improved systems for collecting customs duties on imported goods also contributed to the rise in the volume of collected duties in 1987, Qudah

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He said that the increase came despite the fact that Jordan's imports last year did not exceed those of 1986.

Calculation of customs duties, Qudah said, is carried out in accordance with a central bank currency circular issued by-mouthly and applied to all commodities imported from abroad.

Jordanian auditors elect chief

Adel Qudah

low tariffs.

So far, Qudah added, the gov-

ernment has not considered any

amendment to reduce the existing

customs duty rates to compensate

traders for higher foreign ex-

change and to provide protection

to local industries which enjoy

local authorities have recently

seized contraband goods from the

local markets and referred three

merchants dealing with such

goods to the legal authorities.

JCAA board members who

won in the same election, held for

the first time in Jordan, are the

following: Tawfiq Ayyoub, Mahmoud Hassan, Majd Mohammad Khalifa, Rafiq

Dweik, Mazen Dajani, Adnan

Ondah also disclosed that the

AMMAN (J.T.) — Wahib Al Sha'er has been elected president of the Jordanian Certified Anditors Association (JCAA) after winning 81 votes out of a total of 177 at a JCAA election held at the Amman Chamber of In-

A close competitor was Ibrahim Ageel who received 80 votes while nine votes went to Issa Rida

Khleif, Yaser Mahafza and Samir Hourani. They won in the face of a strong competition by 16 other

Saudi Arabia plans to build factory to produce titanium dioxide

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You handled before you can enjoy the mold be wise not to begin any new recreation you have planned. Stick to some reanounibilities.

Saudi Arabian ministry of industry and electricity is planning to build a titanium dioxide factory at the industrial city of Yanbu at a cost of \$128 million with an annual production capacity of 45,000 tons.

According to Mahsoun Jalal, president of the Saudi Arabian National Industries Company, the Saudi Fund for Development

would be wise not to begin any new projects or take any risks today. In-

stead, wind up the loose ends of

some past projects and organize your plans for the week shead. Use

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 15)
Postpone beginning any new venture today, as your judgment is not
up to par. Be sure to handle your
designated chrises.

TAURUS (Apr. 29 to May 20)

Don't allow a secret worry to prevent you from functioning proparly. Take it easy at home with your mate tonight, and get lots of rest.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Becoming involved in an argument between a loved one and a superior

would be unfortunate, so be sure you remain neutral.
MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to

There are many small details to be

PORECAST FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1968

RIYADH (OPECNA) — The would provide a loan of \$64.60 million to finance almost 50 per cent of the project.

The official noted that the approval of the Sandi commerce ministry was being sought to set up a closed joint-share company with an initial capital of \$32 mil-

The national industry company would hold 24 per cent of the

to your responsibilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A
trip you have planned should be
postponed if you want to avoid

trouble. Handle those small duties at home and get them over with. SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

This is a good day to handle the cor-respondence which has been ac-cumulating. If you can't finish a

cammisting. If you can't finish a matter properly now, set it aside. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Revise your budget and you'll see that your financial situation is much better than you had thought. Get plenty of rest tonight. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Constitutes at home may be a bit.

Conditions at home may be a bit difficult at this time, so avoid any arguments there. Take your fami-ly out on the town for some fun. AQUARIUS (Jam. 21 to Feb. 19)

NEWS IN BRIEF

World tourism earns \$150 billion in 1987

MADRID (R) — Some 355 million tourists travelled abroad in 1987, earning the world's holiday industry \$150 billion, the World Tourism Organisation has reported. The number of tourists rose from 341 million, while earnings were up from \$129 billion, the Madrid-based organisation said. European countries remained the top holiday destinations in 1987 — taking 66 per cent of the world's tourist trade with 234.5 million arrivals. The region earned \$90 billion from tourism. The second most popular region was North, Central and South America, with 66 million arrivals. The Far East and Pacific saw the biggest increase in tourist arrivals, visited by 34 million people compared with 29 million the

Natural gas reserves go up in Oman

MUSCAT (OPECNA) — Oman's natural gas reserves increased by three trillion to 9.60 trillion cubic feet this month, according to sources at the ministry of petroleum and minerals. Quoted by the Arabic daily "Oman," the sources said that this year three gas prospecting programmes would be launched in the sultanate at a cost of \$6.30 million. In 1987, Oman's natural gas consumption totalled 50 billion cubic feet with demands averaging 150 million and 400 million cubic feet a day in summer and winter respectively. Following the launching of a special exploration programme in 1984, Oman's natural gas reserves stood at 7.60 trillion cubic feet, increasing to 7.70 trillion cubic feet in 1985 and 8.10 trillion cubic feet in 1986.

Austria imports more oil products

VIENNA (OPECNA) — During January-November 1987, Austria imported 26.2 per cent more oil products but 29 per cent less crude oil, compared to the same period last year, according to a report by the Central Statistical Authority. OPEC oil accounts for the bulk of Austrian energy requirements. Its share in the first three quarters of the year was 67 per cent. The report said import of solid fuels declined by 11.4 per cent over the same period, while that of natural gas, mostly from the Soviet Union, increased by 4.7 per cent. Austria's trade with the 13 OPEC countries. represented only 2.2 per cent of its imports and 2.9 per cent of its exports. Austrian imports of commodities and services from OPEC countries dropped by 5.2 per cent to \$677 million, compared with the same period a year earlier, while Austrian exports to the group reached \$739 million, a decline of 27.7 per cent, leaving a balance of more than \$62 million in favour of Austria. Third World countries increased their purchases from Austria by 14.2 per cent and OPEC countries by 20.8 per cent.

N. Yemen expects \$750m income from oil

DOHA (OPECNA) — Officials in North Yemen estimate annual oil export revenues to average between \$700 to \$800 million at the current volume of 200,000 barrels per day and a price of \$18 a barrel. An article published in a local magazine said the officials put the country's proven reserves between 500 and 700 million barrels. About 50 foreign oil companies are reported to be interested in purchasing North Yemeni oil on a quarterly basis. Yemeni oil is being pumped through a 420-kilometre pipeline from the governorate of Maareb to the Red Sea.

11 countries to get special Dutch aid

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands has decided to grant a total of 205 million guilders (\$103 million) in special import aid to 11 countries, a spokesman for the Dutch development ministry has said. The aid is aimed at giving foreign currency to countries that have made efforts to restructure their economies according to International Monetary Fund guidelines, but still suffer from a serious current accounts deficit, the spokesman said. Egypt. Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Bolivia and Jamaica are each to receive grants of 10 to 30 million guilders (\$5 to \$20 million) under the programme, spokesman Frans Naeff said. All but four countries — Egypt, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, and Jamaica — have received similar grants in the past, he added. The Netherlands each year budgets about five billion guilders (\$2.7 billion), equal to 1.5 per cent of its net national income, for development aid.

BADEA extends \$8.2m loan to Uganda

KAMPALA (AP)—The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) is giving Uganda an \$8.2 million loan to help rebuild dilapidated rural roads, Radio Uganda has reported. The state-owned radio said the 12-year loan, with a five-year grace period, will go toward a \$55 million project to rehabilitate roads over the next four years. Japan, West Germany and the United Nations Development Programme also have promised to help in the project. Uganda's 27,000 kilometres of roads are potholed because previous governments did not repair them. because previous governments did not repair them.

Kremlin reemphasises food priority

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin number two Yegor Ligachev has said the Soviet Union must make an important step this year towards solving its food supply problem because it is crucial to the country's overall reform programme, Pravda said Sunday.

Ligachev, the chief Soviet said ideologist, was speaking Saturday at a Communist Party Central Committee meeting on agricul-ture and spring planting, the par-

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ty newspaper said.
"This year we have to make an important new step on the way to solving the food problem," Ligachev was quoted as saying. 'As you know, the party is

paying attention to this problem, and its solution will determine in many respects the depth and effectiveness of changes taking place in the country," he noted. Ligachev said it was important to do everything possible to help

farm workers prepare for spring planting. "Only in this way can we count on strengthening our food basis," he said. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has made ridding the

country of chronic food shortages a priority aim of his reform drive. He promised in a speech earlier this month to open every door to farmers who use his reforms to improve Soviet agriculture. Saturday's Central Committee

meeting was attended by heads of ministries concerned with agri-cultural equipment and supplies as well as Y. Sizenko, first deputy chairman of Gosagroprom, the super-ministry for agricultural affairs, Pravda said.

The newspaper indicated some ministries were already behind in the efficiency of Soviet productheir preparations for spring tion by introducing modern planting. Some had been slow to supply state and collective farms abroad and promoting joint eco-

Gorbachev has sought to boost farm production by offering incentives to farmers to grow more

on their private plots. The Kremlin has also called for better use of modern technology, the development of ecological protection programmes and improved food storage and proces-

Government forms new foreign trade ministry

In another development, TASS said that the government has consolidated two foreign trade agencies and placed them under the control of government and Communist Party Veteran Konstantin

The Soviet news agency said the 60-year-old Katushev would head the newly formed ministry of foreign economic relations.

It said the new ministry would combine the ministry of foreign trade, which had been headed by Boris Aristov, and the state committee for foreign economic relations, which Katushev had beaded.

It did not say what Aristov would do.

Under Gorbachev, the Soviet Union has tried to increase its foreign economic contacts.

Gorbachev is trying to improve equipment and techniques from with tractors, ploughs, spare nomic ventures with non-socialist parts, chemicals and fertiliser, it countries.

Iran plans to bypass Gulf to transport goods to Europe

NICOSIA (R) - Iran said Sunday it had held talks with its ally Syria

about increasing exports to Europe.

Deputy Roads and Transport Minister Ahmad Madani has discussed setting up two Iranian-Syrian companies to handle sea and land transport, Iran's national news agency IRNA reported. Madani, speaking at the end of a week-long visit to Syria, said it was planned to transport Iranian goods, including fresh fruit, dried

fruit and vegetables, to Europe through Syria. The agency, received in Nicosia, quoted Madani as saying that

trailer trucks would take the goods to Syrian ports. From there Iranian ships would transport them to Europe. The agency did not explain the reason for the arrangement but Iraq, at war with Iran for seven years, repeatedly attacks Iranian

merchant shipping in the Gulf. Madani said preliminary agreement had also been reached to set up passenger train lines between Iran and Syria. The two countries do not have a common land frontier and IRNA did not say what arrangement, if any, had been reached with Turkey.

The agency said Madani had talks Saturday with Syrian Transport Minister Yousef Al Ahmad who praised Iran's support for the

British inflation rate falls to 3.7%

LONDON (AP) - Britain's annual inflation rate dipped 0.4 of a percentage point to 3.7 per cent last month, its lowest level for a year, the government has said.

The inflation rate reflects the rise in the government's retail price index, a measure of the costs of consumer goods and services, over the previous 12 months.

Inflation fell 0.4 of a point from November to December, mainly because of a fall in mortgage rates of around one per cent. Prices for automobiles and gasoline also fell, but fresh foods cost more.

Employment Secretary Norman Fowler said the Conservative government expects the annual inflation rate to rise to 4.5 per cent by

the end of the year. The average inflation rate in the 12-nation European Community

TASS said Katushev worked in the Communist Party apparatus for 20 years until 1977. He then became a deputy chairman of the council of ministers, or cabinet, and in 1982 was named ambassa-

dor to Cuba. In 1985 he became chairman of the committee for foreign economic relations. Aristov also was chosen to head the ministry of foreign trade in 1985.

Report suggests military spending is much higher

Soviet military spending is probably five to seven times higher than the Kremlin admits, but may still be far below that of the United States and its allies. according to a new study by prominent Western military

analysts.
"Russian traditions of secrecy and deception have always masked both strength and weakness," Professor Carl Jacobsen said in the study, published by the Stockholm International Peace

Research Institute (SIPRI). He said the official Soviet state budgets of the 1970s and 1980s allocated barely two per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to

But U.S., British and French contributors to the study, entitled The Soviet Defence Enigma. Estimating Costs and Burden," estimated actual costs at 10 to 15 per cent of GDP.

The United States in 1986 spent 6.7 per cent of GDP on defence, said SIPRI, an international thinktank funded by

Sweden's parliament. The size of Soviet defence expenditure, crucial to Western security debates on defence and

of the most jealously guarded secrets in the world.
The U.S. Central Intelligence programmes and adding up estimated costs, set Soviet defence spending at 15-17 per cent of

GDP in a 1986 study.

policy, has for decades been one

itemised funds in the Soviet budget, and available statistics about the Soviet economy and labour force, to arrive at the 10 to 15 per cent estimate.

CIA estimates in the late 1970s, suggesting a far greater Soviet military effort, helped U.S. President Ronald Reagan's defence buildup win congression-

al approval, they said. Despite the Soviet Union's heavier defence burden in terms of GDP, Moscow lags far behind the U.S. in actual defence spend-

ing, according to SIPR!.
The institute put U.S. military expenditure in 1985 at \$205 billion (at 1980 prices and exchange rates), while the Soviet Union was estimated to have spent \$146

billion. The difference was even more pronounced if other NATO members, which spent \$123 5illion, were compared to the Soviet Union's Warsaw Pact allies, which spent only \$14 billion in 1985 on defence, according to

SIPRI's estimates. "The problem is that amounts of money do not measure value in the same way in both economies," SIPRI said.

The enigma surrounding Sovie! military strength will remain until Moscow opens its books, Jacobsen said, noting that while some Western experts think the Russians have significant hidden missile reserves, others believe part of their weapon systems are in fact dummies.

Gorbachev's civilian economic reform programmes were likely to mean a zero-growth or reduced defence budget, SIPRI said, but it warned that a reversal was likely to occur if the international situation became chilly.

"Western statesmen would do well to remember that such rever-Agency (CIA), piecing together sals have been frequent in Rus-information on Soviet military sian history, and that both govsian history, and that both governments and citizens have repeatedly tightened their belts when faced with foreign threats to their status and security," the study Scholars contributing to the said.

U.S. bankers plan no more fresh lending to Third World

ANN ARBOR, Michigan (R) — U.S. regional bankers, still wrestling with precarious loans to Latin America, say they have no intention of lending more money to developing countries anytime

"We have become increasingly hardened in our views on new debt," William Flynn, senior vice president of the National Bank of Detroit's international division, said last week at a conference on Third World debt.

Flynn praised the passing of the old practice of U.S. banks acting in unison to reschedule developing-country debt to a new trend of individual banks independently choosing their own methods of dealing with problem loans.
"One of the initial difficulties

we had was accepting the concept of fair share and that all the banks were in this together," Flynn

Flynn said regional banks, defined as major banks outside New York City and California, were responsible for 35 per cent of developing-country loans, while money centres hold 65 per cent on their books.

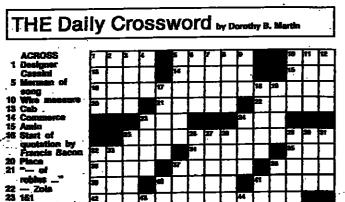
Flynn said the interests of the biggest, so-called money centre banks and those of the regionals were very divergent in continued lending to the Third World.

Since the foreign debt crisis erupted in 1982, banks have been dealing with the problem by lending new money so indebted nations could service interest payments.

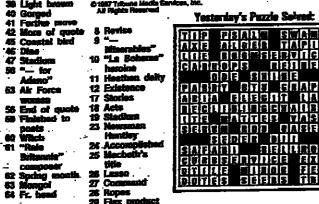
But last year debtors and creditors became more open to a so-called menu of options, including exit bonds, debt-equity swaps, and a new Mexican bond

swap plan.
The old collective vision in dealing with the debt crisis was the banks, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank pushing together," Geof-frey Bell, chairman of Londonbased Guinness Mahon Bank, told the conference. "Now we are seeing people go in different

MOON CHILDREN Gane 22 to Jul. 21) Don't lose your temper over a critical remark made to you, just ignore it and change the subject. Try to be more independent. LEO Gal. 22 to Ang. 21) A new contact has some ridiculously inflated idees, so don't follow my advice from this parame Decide on a AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Try to see what's ahead of you so that my obstacles will not take you by surprise. Avoid a friend who has an inflated ego. PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A personal goel you've been trying to schieve will fall into your lap. Avoid being around any friends who tend to flumt their wealth. vice from this person. Decide on a way to improve your efficiency. VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) **Peanuts** nt their wealth.



32 Embers 34 Presses Yesterday's Puzzie Selved



51 Soak up 52 Mis Millay 53 Had on 54 Relative 55 At large 57 Fell mont abbr. 58 Cask









Mutt'n' Jeff





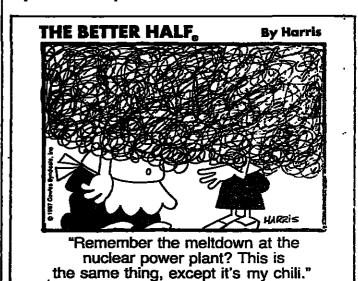


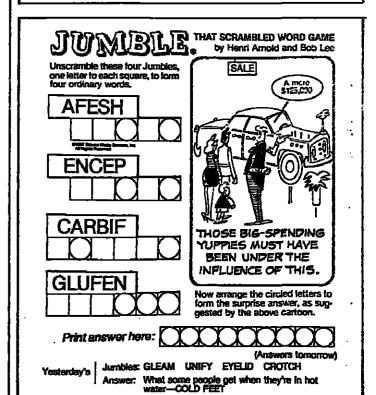
Andy Capp











COLUMNS 768

SYRACUSE, Sicily (AP) - Visitors to a new archaeological

museum will be given a clearer view of the past of this Sicilian

city, which was one of the most important centres of the ancient

Greek World. Minister of Culture Carlo Vizzini and other

government officials participated in the afternoon ceremony

opening the Paolo Orsi Museum, named after the Italian

archaeologist who conducted the first systematic excavations of

Sicily in the 20th century. The exhibits, which were transferred

from a smaller museum in the oldest part of this coastal city.

include marble and terracotta statues, ceramics, jewellery and

other pieces ranging from the stone age to the 5th century B.C. To these have been added new finds which were uncarthed during

recent excavations in the oldest parts of Syracuse and the

surrounding countryside. The chronologically structured exhibits

centre around the prehistory of eastern Sicily, beginning in the 15th century B.C., when the Greeks first travelled to Sicily. In the

8th century, citizens of the Greek city of Counth colonised

Archaeological museum inaugurated

Ortega lifts state of emergency, accepts direct talks with contras

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has lifted a state of emergency in his country and said his government would open direct ceasefire talks with U.S.-backed rebels within

Ortega, who had said that he would never take those steps as long as war raged in Nicaragua, made the announcement Saturday at the close of a two-day Central American summit on the outskirts of San Jose.

Throughout the summit, the Nicaraguan president was under heavy pressure from other chief executives in the region to comply more fully with a peace pact signed by the five Central American leaders in Guatemala last Aug. 7.

In Miami, a contra leader told the Associated Press on Saturday that the rebels accepted Ortega's offer and would meet face to face with him. But the contra leader, Aristides Sanchez, also expressed

"His (Ortega's) intention is clear: To win time and an unfavourable vote from Congress to aid, and not a real political will to give peace, democracy and freedom to the Nicaraguan people,"

Sanchez is a member of the six-man directorate of the Nicaraguan Resistance. His comments were translated from Spanish by Marta Sacasa, a contra spokes-

Ortega also said his government would grant amnesty to all political prisoners arrested after 1981 "immediately upon achievement of an effective ceasefire and the incorporation of armed groups into civilian life." If no ceasefire is reached, he

said, Nicaragua would free the prisoners "if the United States or any other non-Central American country decides to accept them." He also said Nicaragua would participate in any regional elections for delegates to a proposed Central American Parliament

and hold municipal elections before the country's next scheduled presidential election in 1989. President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, one of Ortega's strongest critics in the

region, said the steps announced

by the Nicaraguan leader were "not sufficient for me. It's a small Duarte said Ortega should take

"total, complete, immediate-steps to comply" with the accord, including allowing full press freedom in Nicaragua. He also accused Ortega of continuing to aid and provide sanctuary for the leftist rebels that threaten El Salvador's government.

Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo, another sharp critic of Nicaragua's Sandinista government, was the only president who did not meet with reporters after the summit. There was no explanation, but some observers said Azcona was not happy with the outcome of the meeting.

Ortega told a news conference following the close of the summit that he was taking the steps "despite the illegal war being waged against Nicaragua by the United States." He urged Washington to "respect the will of the Central Americans" and halt all further aid to the contras.

Ortega's change of position is likely to make it more difficult for U.S. President Ronald Reagan to obtain more money for the con-

tras from Congress. The Nicaraguan president said

S. African police kill two blacks in clashes

Police firing shotguns killed two have dropped sharply since a people in clashes in a township nationwide state of emergencynear the town of Oudtshoom in South Africa's Cape province.

In one incident Saturday, three blacks tried to wrest a shotgun from five policemen walking to-wards the township of Bongolethu, near Oudtshoom, the police daily bulletin on civil unrest reported Sunday.

"A large mob which had gathered stoned the security force members, who fired a number of shotgun rounds to ward off the attack," it said.

A mixed-race man was killed and two other people were

In a second incident a policeman shot dead one of three blacks attacking him while he was on his way to work at Bongolethu, the statement said. Fatal clashes in South Africa's are locked in a power struggle.

MANILA. Philippines (AP) —

President Corazon Aquino

appealed Sunday for a "peaceful and honest election," and the country's military chief ordered

commanders to be on alert for a

possible right-wing bid to disrupt

The 54-year-old president

issued the appeal on the eve of

nationwide elections for regional

and local officials, which the gov-

ernment said would restore full

Monday's vote follows a

bloody, six-week campaign in

which at least 36 candidates have

been slain. The military blames Communist rebels for about half

In a television statement,

Aquino urged voters to support

candidates "who think only of serving the Filipino people."

peaceful and honest election,

Aquino said. "And I would like

to appeal to the candidates not to

forget their responsibilities to the Filipino people and not to use

force and that they should serve

the people first, not their own

Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel

Ramos ordered commanders to

be on the alert for trouble after

what he said was an intelligence

report that right-wing groups led

by former Brig.-Gen. Jose Zumel and former Lt.-Col. Reynaldo

Cabauatan might launch attacks

to disrupt Monday's election.

the book except extracts covering

Cavendish's work for MI6 between 1948 and 1953.

resignation appeared to be re-

lated to secret information

gathered by Sir Maurice Oldfield.

MI6 director-general from 1973

Cavendish wrote that Wilson's

"Let's do our best to have a

democracy to the country.

regional balloting.

the killings.

Aquino urges support for

candidates who serve people

JOHANNESBURG (R) - townships involving the police was imposed 19 months ago. Police declined to elaborate on the causes of the outbreak of violence in Cape province.

They added that a man was hacked to death and a bus driver was shot dead in fresh violence among blacks in South Africa's worst trouble spot, the shanty towns near the Natal provincial capital of Piertermantzburg.

At least six people were wounded. Several houses and vehicles were damaged in stoning and arson attacks, the police bulletin said.

At least 37 people have been killed this month in the Pietermaritzburg area, where two black organisations, the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Movement and the leftist United Democratic Front,

Aquino's 22-month administra-

The 160,000-member armed

forces went on full alert Saturday

in advance of the balloting, as

authorities announced three

more election-related slayings.

That brought the campaign death

The government-run Philip-

pines News Agency (PNA) said commanders of Manila-area gar-

risons were ordered to take addi-

tional measures to secure their

installations, especially at night. On Saturday, Lt.-Gen. Renato

De Villa, deputy chief of staff and

commander of the Philippine

Constabulary, announced troops

had gone on a nationwide alert

and warned that candidates

would be prosecuted if caught

giving Communist rebels money

in exchange for being allowed to campaign freely in rebel-control-

Soldiers, backed by police and

military cadets, will guard more than 100,000 voting stations

nationwide when the polls open

for the election of provincial gov-

ernors, mayors and other local officials, he told a news confer-

ence. More than 160,000 candi-

dates are running for 16,000

U.S. officials warned Amer-

ican military personnel and their

dependents against unneces-

sary travel Monday to avoid

being caught up in any election

led areas.

toll to at least 78.

Prince may be charged for reckless driving

Syracuse, making it the island's most important city.

LONDON (R) - Prince Michael of Kent, a member of the British Royal Family and president of the Royal Automobile Club, could face criminal charges over allegations of reckless driving in an 84-year-old car, police said Saturday. The 45-yearold prince drove dangerously and hogged the road in a 1903 Gordon Bennet Napier car during the London-to-Brighton vintage car rally last November, five rally participants told police. Prince Michael, Queen Elizabeth's first cousin, denied the allegations but police said they had asked the director of public prosecutions to consider whether charges should be filed.

Postmen halt deliveries under dog menace

LONDON (R) — Postmen have suspended mail deliveries to 254 flats in a West London housing complex because they are afraid of menacing dogs on the loose, a British politician said Saturday. Conservative Harry Greenway told reporters the move was unprecedented and said he would raise the dog issue in

Backyard cemetery to be demolished

BRESCIA, Italy (R) - Peitro Barom built a family cemetery in his garden but kept rabbits in the empty vaults after his relatives denounced it as ghoulish. Magistrates fined him 6.67 million lire (\$5,500) Saturday for building the tombs without permission, ordered him to demolish them, and sentenced him to five days in jail. Baroni, 55, spent several years constructing eight burial vaults in his garden for himself and his family. The do-it-yourself project caused uproar among his neighbours.

New AIDS treatment tested in U.K.

LONDON (R) - An Israeli-developed AIDS treatment derived from egg-yolk is being tested secretly in a leading London teaching hospital, the Sunday Telegraph said. Doctors were keeping the name of the hospital secret to avoid attracting AIDS victims who might believe the AL721 formula was a cure for the killer disease. Only a handful of patients were being treated with the formula at the hospital and the newspaper quoted doctors as saying it could be six months before its effectiveness was known.

Research in the Umted States has shown that AL721, a combination of lipids (fats) found in egg yolks, represent activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activity of the AIDS virus in the test-tube by stripping cholesterol activities and the tube cholesterol activities activities activities and the tube cholesterol activities activities activities activities a needed by the virus to penetrate white blood cells. The substance, which looks like margarine, was developed originally as a cancer treatment by Professor Meir Shinitsky of Israel's Weizmann Institute. Manufacturing rights were acquired by a U.S. drug company. The Sunday Telegraph said tests began at the London Hospital before Christmas and patients spread the compound on toast and crackers or mixed it into fruit juice. Dr. Yehuda Skornick of Tel Aviv's Rokach Hospital said last March he had deficiency syndrome (AIDS) patients and all showed an improve-

Kerosene pollutes Moscow water

MOSCOW (AP) — City officials have told the U.S. embassy that kerosene seeped into the Moscow water supply, giving the water in parts of the city an unpleasant taste and odor, an embassy spokeswoman said Saturday. Marguerite Squire told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that officials of the Moscow Sanitary Inspection Service identified the pollutant in a meeting with U.S. embassy Doctor Stanley Wolfe and Science Counselor John Ward. The Moscow officials said there was no more kerosene in the water but the embassy was advising Americans not to drink it until an independent analysis is completed, Squire said, citing an embassy notice to Americans living in Moscow. She said she did not know where the water was sent for analysis, or when the results would be known. The official press reported Wednesday that an oil product leaked into the Moscow water system when a pipe broke Jan. 6 at a watch factory west of Moscow. It said the pollutant seeped into a tributary of the Moscow river and from there into the city water supply. Two days later, residents began noticing a foul smell and discoloration of

Poll finds Soviets more upbeat

WASHINGTON (AP) — A survey conducted in Moscow and Washington found Soviets more upbeat but possibly less informed about bilateral issues than Americans, a U.S. polister says. Because scientific opinion polling is new and relatively untested in the Soviet Union, the fact that joint sampling was taken may be as significant as the results, said John P. Robinson of the University of Maryland. Results of the survey were released Saturday. "The point is that we are getting going on these things," Robinson said in an interview. Telephone samplings of Moscow residents found that 42 per cent viewed the outcome of the meeting in Washington last month between President Ronald Reagan and Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev as "very good," compared with 25 per cent of the Washington residents polled who felt the same way. The polled found that 52 per cent of these found that 52 per cent of these found that 52 per cent of these found that 53 per cent of these polled by Moscow had not the Washington residents polled who felt the same way. The poll also found that 53 per cent of those polled in Moscow had not heard of the Berlin Wall, compared with 86 per cent of the Americans surveyed who were aware of the barrier erected by Communist East Germany and the Soviet Union to divide the German city. The poll is the third conducted by Robinson and Vladimir Andreyenkov, the head of the Methodology Section at the Institute for Sociological Research at the Soviet Academy of the Institute for Sociological Research at the Soviet Academy of

Stowaway cat to go home

LONDON (AP) - Felix the stowaway cat is going home, the final leg of an extremely roundabout trip. After logging about 180,000 miles (288,000 kilometres) during 29 days in the baggage hold of a Pan Am jet, Felix is getting a free flight home to Los Angeles next week. "I just want to see her. I just want to hold her. To me, it's a miracle," said Janice Kubecki, the cat's owner. Pan Am employee Jane Ford, who "took the cat under her wing," will escort Felix on the flight to reunite her with Mrs. Kubecki and her husband, William, airline officials said. The stowaway's story began Dec. 3 when the 2-year-old female Calico broke out of her travel container during a flight from Frankfurt. West Germany, to Los Angeles. The Kubeckis were moving from Europe to Edwards Air Force Base, California. The cat apparently trainsed back to the cargo hold of the Boeing 747 and called it home for 29 days — during which time the plane made 64 flights, covering 179,189 air miles (286,702 air kilometres) between Europe, the United States and South America. A London baggage handler spotted Felix in the cargo hold early New Year's Eve, but he couldn't catch her before the plane was scheduled to take off again. Finally, airline workers in London coaxed her out from behind a bulkhead on New Year's Day.

Ershad may call presidential elections

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshi President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, under mounting opposition pressure to quit, has said he may call a fresh presidential election to test his popularity.

He rejected once again the constant opposition demands that he transfer power to a neutral caretaker government to ensure

"We can go for a presidential election soon after the upcoming

"It will give me an opportunity," he said, "to fight the election and see where I stand in terms of my own popularity.

"But there is no way I can handover power to a caretaker government. There is no such thing in our constitution."

Gen. Ershad who has ruled Bangladesh for six years, dissolved a one-year-old

the state-owned daily Dainik opposition parties launched a massive campaign aimed at top-

pling his government. He later set Feb. 28 for fresh parliamentary elections. The opposition said they would boycott the polls because past experience showed them that elections under Gen. Ershad

would be rigged. There had been many heads of states before me who did not resign before the polls. Why then should I do that?" Gen. Ershad

Army unit

mutineer

grants refuge

to Argentine

BUENOS AIRES (R) - Argen-

tine army fugitive mutineer Aldo

Rico and an undetermined num-

with Tigers COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) -

A Sri Lanka Tamil political leader said Sunday the Sri Lankan government is making efforts to hold direct negotiations for peace with Tamil rebels. "It is correct. Contacts are

the Tamil Tigers, whom I wish not to identify," the political leader, Kumar Ponnambalam, who is general secretary of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress, said. A spokesman of the Sri Lanka government would neither con-

firm nor deny that efforts for direct negotiations were being But the independent, Tamillanguage, Colombo-based, Virakesari newspaper on three occasions earlier this month claimed secret talks were under

Sri Lanka 'in contact'

Managua and confer Sunday with

Cardinal Miguel Obando Y. Bra-

vo, the Roman Catholic primate

who mediated two earlier, fruit-

less rounds of indirect ceasefire

If Obando agrees to continue

to act as mediator, Ortega said

the talks could begin early next

Ortega remained firm in de-

manding that the talks deal solely

with the mechanics of a ceasefire.

saying: "We are not going to have

a political dialogue with the con-

Nicaragua freed 985 political

prisoners last month, but is esti-

mated to have another 5,000 still

behind bars. The amnesty Ortega

announced Saturday would affect

The amnesty would not cover

prisoners who served in the late

President Anastasio Somoza's

National Guard and were

arrested when the Sandinistas

the 6-year-old emergency law by

decree throughout the entire

country, but reserved the right to

reimpose it "if the war con-

Ortega said he was suspending

took over in July 1979.

about 2,000 of them.

week in San Jose.

continuing. Even Saturday, I was talking of such a possibility with

made through Ponnambalam. way between the Sri Lanka government and the Tamil Tigers.

violence and prevent against giv-Both officers have been linked ing the impression of U.S. into previous attempts to topple Andreotti criticises

defence drive ROME (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti has criticised a Franco-German drive to strengthen West European defence ties, saying it could increase pressure in the United States to pull out American troops.

Franco-German

In an interview in the newspaper La Republica on Sunday, he said it was dangerous to distinguish between European and American defence forces and that France and West Germany risked creating a new "Maginot line" of false security.

"As for the accord between Paris and Bonn, I dispute the idea that the real problem of European cohesion lies in creating an autonomous European defence policy and I therefore consider it. an error," Andreotti said.

"If we... do not consider the permanence of the Americans and Canadians in European defence essential, we risk encouraging certain groups in America which, for economic and budgetary reasons among others, would like to reduce greatly their pre-

sence in Europe," he said. France and West Germany are moving towards formation of a joint combat brigade. They agreed last November to set up a joint defence council as part of a drive to establish a "European identity" in Western strategic policy.

They have urged other European NATO members to join the drive, which has gathered pace in light of the planned elimination of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles from Western Europe under last month's U.S.-Soviet arms treaty.

Prime Minister Giovanni Goria responded warily to the scheme when French President François Mitterrand raised it at a meeting in Naples in November but Andreotti's comments in La Republica were considerably more

He said a U.S. and Canadian troop presence in Europe might one day become unnecessary if the disarmament process laun-ched by December's U.S.-Soviet treaty continued.

France broke from NATO's nilitary command in 1966 and maintains a nuclear deterrent independent of the U.S.-led alliance, which includes both Ita-ly and West Germany.

parliamentary polls," he said in years, dissolved a one-year-old an interview published Sunday in parliament last month after 21 Shevardnadze in Bonn on

visit seen diplomatic initiative BONN (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Bonn Sunday for a three-day visit that marks an important step in the Kremlin's revived diplomatic initiative towards West Germany.

The Kremlin has been wooing West German leaders in recent weeks amid signs that differing options on key security issues are emerging between West Germany and other NATO partners, cularly the United States.

Shevardnadze's visit is the first by a top-ranking emissary of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gor-bachev, and the first trip by a Soviet foreign minister to West Germany in five years.

West German officials have been touting the Soviet foreign minister's visit as a key step towards improving relations be-

tween the two nations. Chancellor Helmut Kohl has said better relations with Moscow are a top priority for 1988. "This is an important visit, not

only for our two countries, but for Europe as well," Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said in welcoming Shevardnadze. Shevardnadze, speaking in a brief arrival statement, referred to recent improvements in East-West relations.

"This meeting is being held on the basis of the positive developments that have been achieved (in East-West relations) in recent months," he said.

The Soviet minister also indicated he would discuss a possible West German visit by Gorbachev during his talks with Bonn offi-

Najib confirms Soviet pullout if U.N. talks are successful

MOSCOW (AP) — The with-drawal of Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan is no longer in question and will occur this year if U.N.-sponsored talks are successful, TASS quoted Afghan leader

Najib as saying Saturday. The comments by the leader of Afghanistan's pro-Soviet government appeared to be his first mention to his own people of the try by the end of the year.

timetable put forth by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze earlier this month.

Shevardnadze visited the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Jan. 5-7 and told the Afghan News Agency Bakhtar that the Soviets would like to pull their estimated 115,000 soldiers out of the coun-

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

PLAY OR DEFEND? North-South vulnerable. North

≜AJ86 ♥AQ98 0J543 **+** 10 EAST **⊕Q74** ₹543 710762 ¢Q1076 ♠K52 OAK9 SOUTH **10932** ♥KJ **♣**AQ976

North East South West Pass Pass Pass Pass Opening lead: King of 🌣

Bridge in South Africa was probably the first activity in that country to become desegrated. A few years ago, however, pressure from many countries forced South Africa out of world competition. As a result, the only exposure its players have had to international competition has been from visiting teams. The last squad to make such a tour was a German group. This hand is from their match against a selected South African team. Many players who employ four-card major opening blds like to

open one heart when their distribu-

tion is specifically 4-4-4-1. They feel that gives them maximum flexibility since they can handle any response. It worked well here, and a reasonable four spade contract was reached. Decide whether you would rather play or defend this contract after West leads the king of diamonds and continues with the ace and another.

At first glance, it might seem that, because of the split trump honors, you can hold your losers to two diamonds and a spade. Ruff the third diamond and take a losing trump finesse, then get back to your hand with a heart to repeat the finesse. However, that line has a flaw. After winning his queen of spades. East can lead a fourth diamond, allowing West to score his king of spades by overruffing

That defense should not be too difficult to visualize, but declarer does have an elegant counter. After ruffing the diamond, declar-er should cash the king of hearts and overtake the jack with the queen to take the club finessel When that wins, declarer discards dummy's last diamond on the ace of clubs and now leads a trump.

Assume the ten rides to East's queen (it doesn't help for West to cover). East's diamond return is ruffed in dummy, after which declarer returns to hand with a heart ruff to lead a second round of trumps. When the king appears, it is all over-the table is high,

ber of followers took refuge Saturday in an army unit in the northern province of Corrientes,

the army command said in a statement early Sunday. The statement said the lientenant colonel "and some of his followers occupied" the Fourth Infantry Regiment in Monte Caseros, some 620 kilometres north of Buenos

The army said it had begun preparations for the "recovery of the military installations and the capture of the rebels."

The state telephone company Entel cut all lines with Mont

The local news agency Diarios Y Noticias quoted a telegram allegedly sent to all army units by the commander of the army unit Lieutenant Colonel Hector Alvarez Igarzabal, pledging his support for Rico.

The alleged telegram quoted Alvarez Igarzabal as saying that he "supports the execution of operation dignity," the code name for the officers rebellion Rico led against the army command last April.

The bespectacled Rico, a 45year-old commando, was a champion of junior officers in the Argentine army seeking a purge in the high command.

Book suggests Wilson was forced to quit in '76

LONDON (AP) — Harold Wilson may have abruptly resigned as prime minister in 1976 because the Soviet KGB had acquired allegedly embarrassing information about him, a former British intelligence officer wrote in his memoirs published Sunday.

Wilson stepped down in March 1976, less than midway through his Labour government's normal five-year term of office.

The Sunday Times published extracts from "inside intelligence" by Anthony Cavendish, a former officer with MI6, which

gathers foreign intelligence.
Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government had obtained an injunction against the newspaper on Jan. 2 preventing it from publishing material from the book relating to national security. But a high court judge relaxed

Cavendish said he suspected that Oldfield, who he described as a close friend, might possibly have learned some compromising information about Wilson that

could have fallen into the hands of the Soviet intelligence service. "It was always very clear to me from things he said that Maurice was somehow involved in the sudden departure of Harold Wilson from the premiership," he

wrote.
"Oldfield apparently suspected the Russians might leak it to the CIA to cause diplomatic and intelligence chaos between Britain the ban Friday, allowing the paper to publish all sections of and the United States," he

Dole takes aim at Bush during debate

HANOVER, New Hampshire (R) — U.S. Senate Republican and did not have all the details of leader Robert Dole went on the offensive in a rancorous presidential debate here on Saturday with barbs aimed at all his rivals, but chiefly at Vice President George

Bush. Despite his assertion earlier this week that he was prepared to bury the hatchet after a series of earlier exchanges with the vice president, Dole went after Bush, who is favoured to get the Republican presidential nomination, from the opening gun.

Dole, a key figure in a 1983

accord that propped up a financially ailing retirement programme, needled Bush over campaign literature which, Dole said, gave the vice president credit for the rescue package. "I don't recall George being in

the (decision-making) loop then

either. I don't think he attended a

single meeting," Dole said in a

sardonic dig at Bush for the Irancontra scandal. Bush, dogged by the scandal almost constantly since a Jan. 7 news report that he was more deeply involved in the operation than he had acknowledged, has defended himself by saying he

the arms transaction. In his only comment on the arms deal, Bush chided debate moderator John Chancellor for

raising the issue. "You in the media have a fascination with Iran that I don't think the American people are interested in right now... The questions have been answered,

Saturday's debate was the first such session among Republicans in New Hampshire, which holds the country's first presidential primary election on Feb. 16. The latest Gallup poll showed

Bush with a 15-point lead over Dole. New York Representative Jack Kemp, whose anti-tax philosophy is popular here, was in third place. Former Delaware Governor Pierre Du Pont, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, and former Television Evangelist Pat Robertson were far behind in that

The session was also the last Republican debate prior to the Feb. 8 lowa party meetings that traditionally kick off the nominatwas excluded from key meetings ing process. Polls show Dole run-

Dole criticised Bush's campaign staff for circulating a newspaper article that raised questions about the management of his wife Elizabeth's Blind Trust.

Visibly angry that the Bush campaign seemed to be taking aim at his wife, the former secretary of transportation, the Kansas lawmaker belittled the Bush campaign for "these little games that people play from time to time." Meanwhile Democratic pres-

Jesse Jackson talked about racial problems among blacks and Jews during campaign stops. Former Governor Pete Du Pont of Delaware, citing the use of "tainted petitions," asked that his name be withdrawn from the

idential hopefuls Paul Simon and

Texas Republican primary. Speaking before the debate, Du Pont said he had not known of the irregularities in Texas and blamed the furnishing of phony signatures on "the behaviour of a

"I refuse to benefit in any way from those tainted petitions so I have this morning asked the Republican Party to withdraw my application to be on the Republican primary ballot in Texas," he

